



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

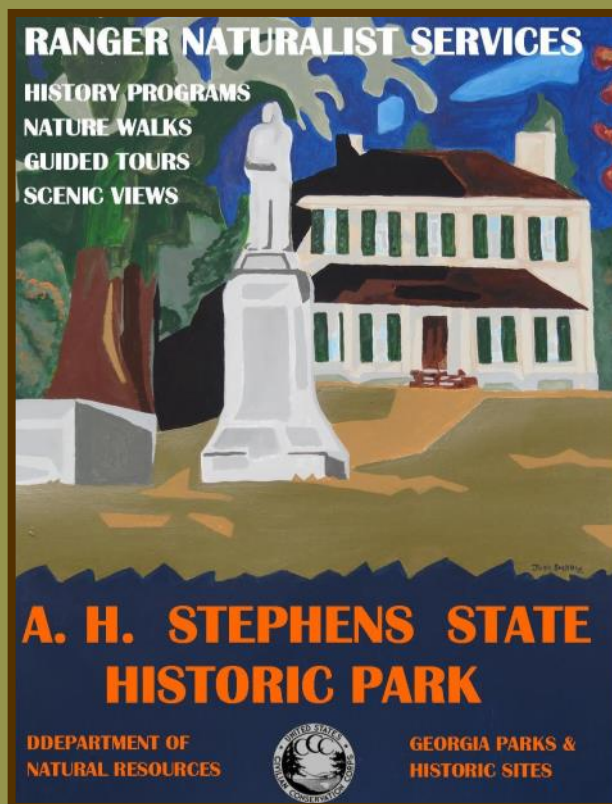
STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

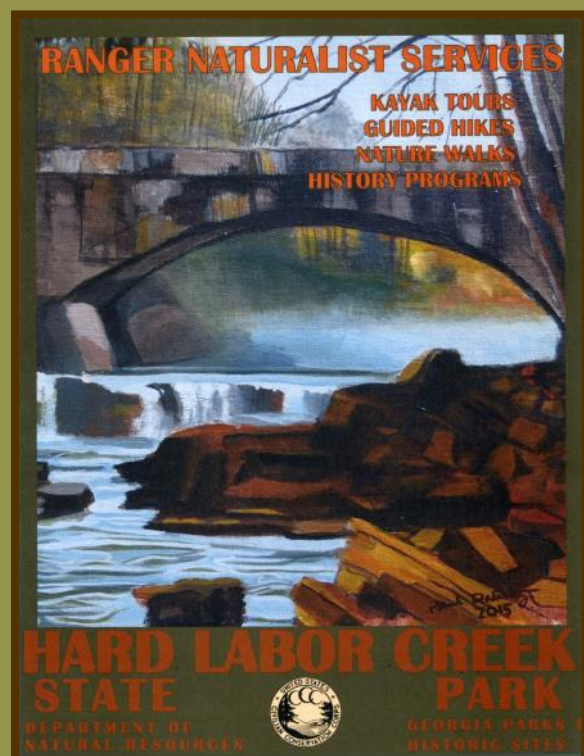
News From the Georgia State Parks, Recreation

and Historic Sites Interpretive Unit

Fall 2016



Judd Smith, Artist



Phil Delestrez, Artist



This cover artwork is a tribute to the posters created for the NPS in the 1930s by artists commissioned under the Works Progress Administration. PRHS proudly honors the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service.

Fall 2016

Volume 2, Issue 2

**PRHS Interpretive
Newsletter
Personnel**

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ROADS LESS TRAVELED

Marketing Moment

Promoting Your Programs

Once you've planned your programs and posted them to the website calendar, what's next? You can create eye-catching flyers that are easy to read. Templates and tips can be found at www.gastateparks.org/staff. Be sure to distribute flyers within your community, not just at your park. Welcome centers, churches, inns, bait shops, gas stations and other businesses are good places to start. Volunteers can help distribute flyers. Keep a list of volunteers that can be shared with future park staff.

Do a little research to find out who promotes tourism in your area. They can be your best advocate. Also, the Georgia Department of Economic Development (www.exploregeorgia.org) has regional "project managers" who can guide you. I have contact information if you need it. Finally, think about which businesses in your area (such as Shaw Industries in Dalton) might have employee newsletters. They may be happy to include park events.

*By: Kim Hatcher,
Public Affairs Coordinator*

Interpretive News:

It's Annual Program and Recreation Action Plan Time Again!

It is time to begin planning for calendar year 2017. Our program efforts in 2016, including the statewide Hidden Gems initiative, have garnered high praise and brought record numbers of visitors to our parks and historic sites. As you plan for 2017, please review your 2016 Action Plans and see what worked, what didn't, what you need to transfer to 2017 and what programs realistically need to be shelved or dropped. As we did last year, the Interpretive Unit will review all the Annual Action Plans and provide you site specific feedback. Remember, make sure your programs fit the theme of your park or site. Ensure that your goals for the year are measurable and achievable. If you don't think you will actually get to building the Pickle Ball court in 2017, then put it down as a future goal and concentrate your program efforts elsewhere. Also remember that in 2016 the Interpretive Unit was able to provide some interpretive funds to support your efforts in the field. Those parks and sites that had good estimates for supplies that they needed included on their 2016 plans were the ones that were awarded the funds. Give a good estimate in that part of the plan, as those funds are available again in 2017. The link to the One Drive to request these funds is at the end of the Action Plan template.

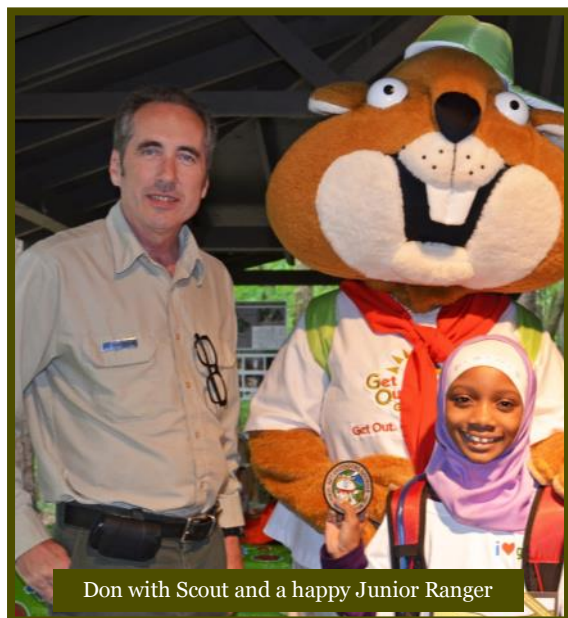


Park Spotlight

Hamburg State Park, located near Mitchell, Georgia, was opened in 1968, and operated as a SORA from late 2010 to March 2016. Word has spread that Hamburg is back to seasonal full operation and people have been coming to spend their time fishing on the 241 acre lake, enjoying great camping, and experiencing the 1920's era water powered grist mill in action during special events. There are also ample opportunities to see wildlife in their natural habitat including alligators, coyotes, foxes, snakes, armadillos, and squirrels. Several species of birds can be found, including owls, herons, and egrets. One of Georgia's best kept secrets, Hamburg is a great place to spend a quiet weekend away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

By: Lesley Mobley, Asst. Manager, HAM

Meet the Interpreter: Don Scarbrough— Sweetwater Creek's Man in Motion



Don with Scout and a happy Junior Ranger

Don Scarbrough has been the Interpretive Ranger at Sweetwater Creek for twenty years. One of his greatest accomplishments while at Sweetwater Creek, and there have been many, is introducing and educating the public to the beauty and history of this fabulous park. Sweetwater Creek is an oasis located only 15 miles from downtown Atlanta, and Don never misses an opportunity to share his knowledge of this natural and cultural treasure with park guests. Some of his notable programs include the Green Building Tour, Full Moon Hike, and leading several different paddling programs on Sweetwater Creek.

Don believes that the best way to connect people to Sweetwater's resources is by unobtrusively

facilitating the visitor's experience, and that is not hard to do when you work at such a wonderful place.

He has also been instrumental in programming gains at Sweetwater Creek and he helped generate almost \$37,000.00 in programming revenue in FY16.

If you have not experienced the New Manchester History Hike with Don, then SWC would like to invite you. Don gives 110% for every program he leads, and he is a huge asset to Sweetwater Creek State Park and the Department of Natural Resources Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division.

*By: David Jordan
Park Manager, SWC*

The Program Advisory Committee (PAC)

The program advisory committee works in partnership with the field and headquarters to analyze trends, review programming and training needs, help choose the annual theme, and handle other important programming topics.

The committee meets once every quarter to discuss and plan the state-wide programming effort. The committee works very closely

with the headquarters and field programming staff.

They are currently working on establishing our annual theme for 2017 and developing two training opportunities for all staff involved in interpretation for the Winter of 2016–2017.

Current members (2016-17) are:

Valarie Ikhwan, Chair - FKG

Heather Jenkins - HQ

Amanda Hrubresh - HQ

Suzanne Passmore - LSW

John Zapf - SEM

Jonathan Bast - VIC

Michael Ellis - RDB

Amy Waite - FDR

The PAC is a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact on the future of the department. It is here to serve YOU the interpreter, so please get in touch with any PAC member with suggestions, thoughts, or feedback about what is happening regarding the direction of PRHS programming and interpretation.

*By: Valarie Ikhwan,
Site Manager FKG*

Interpretive Resources at Your Fingertips

There are a ton of resources that interpreters can rely on. The best resource, of course, are your fellow interpreters. If you have not done so, pick up the phone and call or, better yet, take a ride over to your neighboring parks and sites. You never know when someone has the exact item, theme, or program idea that you need.

Another great resource that we have, particularly for the historic sites, is the Preservation Manual. The manual addresses many

issues such as artifact care, deeds of gifts, where to buy curatorial supplies, and more. <http://gastateparks.org/Staff/2011-PreservationManual>

While you are on the staff resources page, take a look in the programming section. There you can read all of the standards set forth related to interpretive and recreation programming. There is also a link to the Seasonal Naturalist Manual. It has plenty in it that applies to full time as well as part time interpreters.

Another fantastic source for on line learning is the Eppley Institute. The NPS uses them and they have some excellent free courses in interpretive related topics. You will need to set up an account and look for their "free" courses, but the "Foundations of Interpretation" is an excellent start. Here is the website: <https://provalenslearning.com/>

When you come across great resources please share them with the Interpretive Unit so we can share them with the community.



Protecting our Interpretive Future: Jarrell Plantation

Three of Jarrell Plantation State Historic Site's original structures recently saw some improvements that will help further the interpretation of the site and help preserve this important resource for years to come.

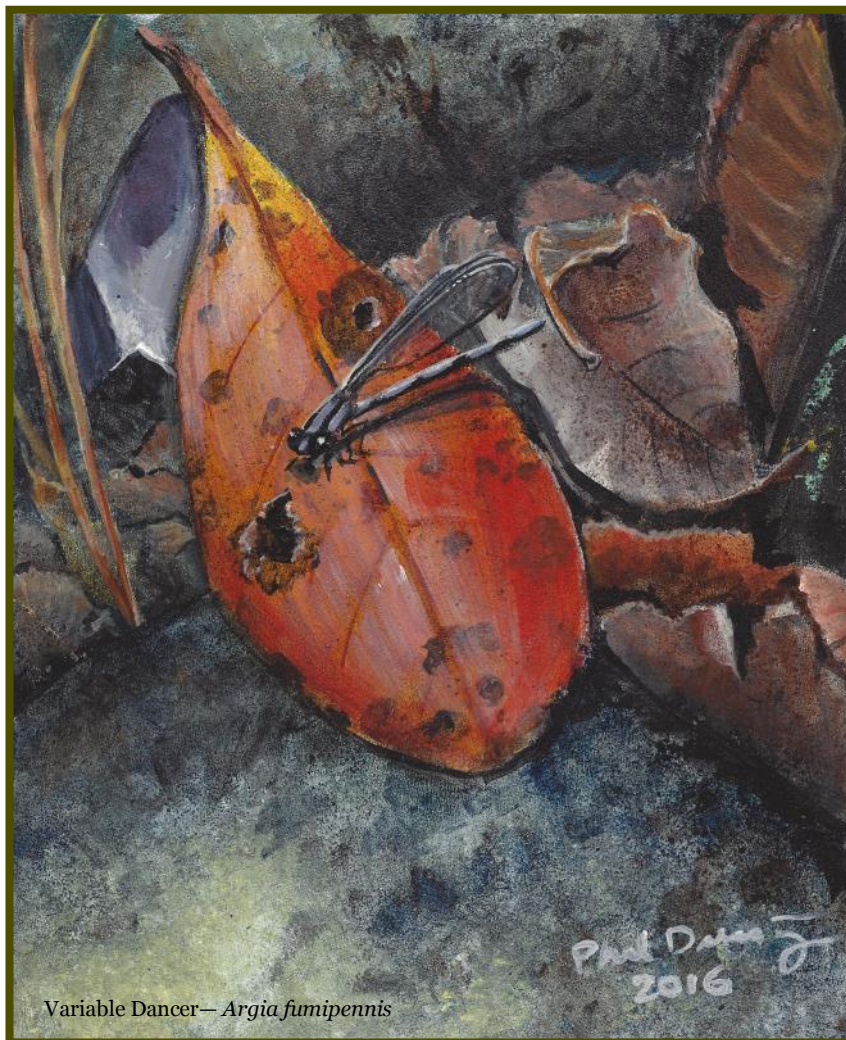
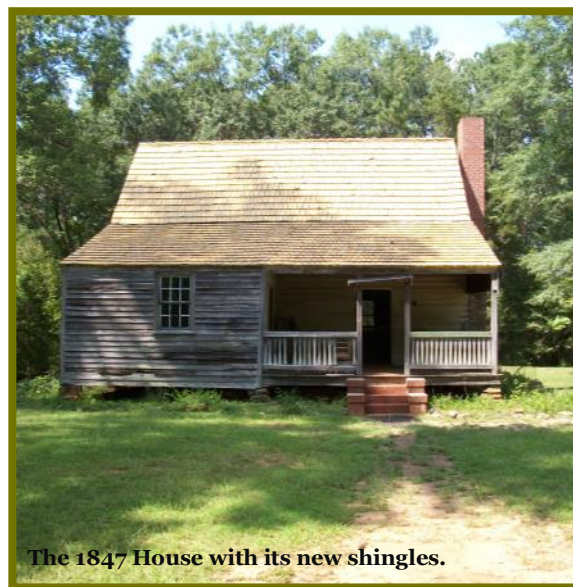
Following discussions and approval from HPD and E&C, work on the 1847 and 1895 dwellings as well as the 1909 smokehouse was completed by a contractor using period style shingles and other approved materials.

The first structure that received attention was the original 1847 house. The house received new wooden shingles.

Once repairs to the 1847 house were complete, the crew began work on the 1909 smokehouse. Time and weather caused the structure to deteriorate in some areas, but the damage was remedied by replacing the sill beams and siding on portions of the smokehouse, stabilizing the original building.

Richard "Dick" Jarrell's 1895 residence, like the 1847 house, had the shingles replaced. Visitors now have access to view these three buildings which were previously closed to the public for construction work.

*By: Christina Orr,
Interpretive Ranger, JAR*



Variable Dancer—*Argia fumipennis*

Entomology Segment

Variable Dancer—Argia fumipennis

The Variable Dancer, a type of damselfly, is generally found in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions of Georgia. It can be seen sporting several different colors such as violet and black.

Damselflies are related to dragonflies, but can be distinguished by their four wings being of the same size while dragonflies possess two wings that are larger than the other two. Damselflies also fold their wings when not in flight where a dragonfly will normally have its wings outstretched. Like dragonflies they have a life cycle that is highly dependent on water for egg laying and the larval and nymph stages. Both dragonflies and damselflies were much larger millions of years ago, but still maintain a similar appearance today.

The Variable Dancer eats other insects and can be found hovering near streams and in Georgia's forests, often lighting on rocks and vegetation.

For more information please see [Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast](#) by Giff Beaton. This outstanding book also mentions several of our state parks.

Many thanks to Phil Delestrez for the painting and inspiration for this article.

Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

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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.

The Creek at Hard Labor Golf Course, Rutledge, Georgia



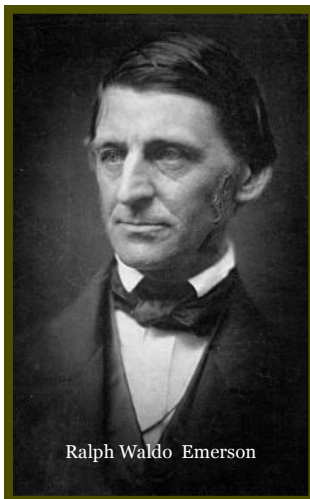
Parting Thoughts and Takeaways:

Recently, I read two books with vastly different subject matter, and both authors used quotes by Ralph Waldo Emerson. I was struck by that meaningful coincidence, what the noted psychiatrist Carl Jung would call “synchronicity,” and so I decided to take a look at Ralph Waldo Emerson, the man who influenced generations of naturalists, writers, and interpreters.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was an essayist, poet, and a lecturer. His notable works include the classic, “Self Reliance.” He was a contemporary of Henry David Thoreau, who himself wrote about his naturalist experiences while living on the banks of Walden Pond.

Many modern naturalists and interpreters reflect traits found in Emerson’s writings, and indeed, the “Father of Interpretation,” Freeman Tilden found inspiration in Emerson’s writing. Tilden even based some of the

elements of his six principles on thoughts penned by Emerson. For example,



compare what Emerson wrote, “Every particular in nature, a leaf, a drop, a crystal, a moment of time is related to the whole, and partakes of the perfection of the whole,” to Tilden’s fifth principle,

“Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase.”

Even your humble editor cannot escape the pull of Emerson. The name of this newsletter is an homage to the great Robert Frost, but I wonder if he himself was not inspired by Emerson who wrote, “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Continue to find inspiration in all places, cultures, people and in the natural world around us and you will become a source of inspiration to others.

Until next time,

Happy Programming!
Judd Smith