



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

2012 Natural & Cultural Resource Management Annual Report
Development of Conservation Partnerships



GEORGIA STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The resource management planning charge is founded in Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division Strategic Plan. Through a systematic and participative consensus building process, the Division's Strategic Plan sets a bold new course for:

- Sustainable stewardship of Georgia's precious natural and cultural resources
- Affirmation of our role in building a conservation ethic in our state
- Recommitment to organizational excellence in all that we do

We believe that:

- Stewardship of our state's natural, cultural and recreational resources is fundamental to the understanding of our past and the well-being of our future.
- Protection of the integrity of each site's unique resources dictates the level of public use.
- Engaging our visitors in meaningful educational and outdoor recreational programs is vital to their appreciation of the resources we are entrusted to protect.

Our primary purpose is to:

- Preserve, conserve, protect, manage and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources within the parks and historic sites system for the educational and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Operate balanced interpretation, educational and outdoor recreation programs to expand knowledge and understanding of Georgia's natural, cultural and recreational resources in a manner consistent with protection of the resource.
- Develop and implement long-range plans for identifying, acquiring, developing and properly managing lands and facilities containing unique natural, cultural or recreational resources.

The goal of the Resource Management Unit is to:

Provide resource-enhancing services and the cornerstone in providing this service-based function is centered in nine task areas:

- Creation of resource management plans with site-specific task recommendations
- Forestry management
- Deer management
- Wise use of prescriptive fire
- Control of invasive and exotic species
- Arborist and storm clean-up services
- Plant conservation partnership efforts
- Nuisance animal control
- Development of Conservation Partnerships

The Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division takes stewardship responsibilities for its 92,880 acres very seriously, especially since many state parks' natural resources are unique to Georgia. These properties are managed for healthy forests, grasslands, wetlands and coastal areas and these efforts support statewide initiatives such as the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Coastal Marshland Protection Act. Two of the five major conservation themes of the SWAP, increasing the use of prescribed fire for habitat restoration and exotic invasive species assessment and control, are highlighted in this report.



I am proud to present the “2012 Natural and Cultural Resource Management Annual Report” for the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

To accomplish our conservation and preservation mission, the Division partners with governmental agencies, corporations, conservancy and environmental groups, land trust organizations and volunteers. Collaborations with Georgia Power’s Forestry Service, the University of Georgia, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, the Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites and many others are critical to successful resource management. We seek every opportunity to expand our outreach and facilitate additional partnerships for increased conservation of Georgia’s natural and cultural resources and to permanently protect these assets.

We are integrating our natural and cultural resources guiding principles into system-wide and site-specific planning efforts to insure these plans adequately address resource protection and respond to current and future needs and trends. These plans tackle resource issues such as the removal of invasive plants at New Echota State Historic Site, deer population management at Panola Mountain State Park, timber harvest and re-forestation at Hard Labor Creek State Park and prescribed burning at Reed Bingham State Park.

Inside this report you will find examples of innovative ways to collaborate to make Georgia’s State Parks and Historic Sites the best in the country. We will continue to strive to ensure that Georgia’s natural, cultural and recreational resources of statewide significance are preserved, protected and managed to be experienced and enjoyed by current and future generations of Georgians and the millions of visitors to our state each year.

Becky Kelley - Director, Georgia State Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites

TABLE OF CONTENTS

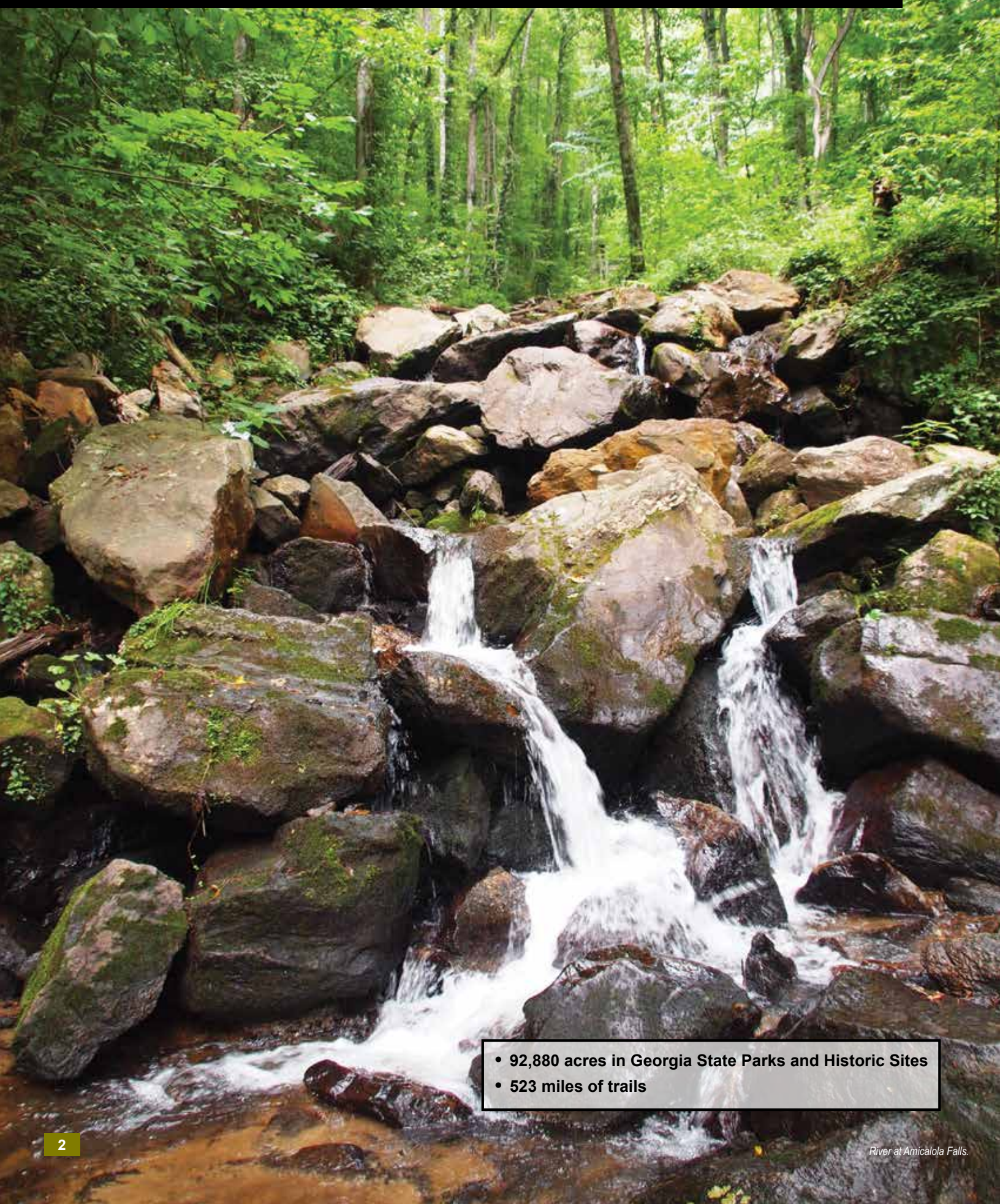
Natural Resources Management:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| • A Partnership for Safe and Healthy State Park Trees: Georgia Power's Forestry Services | 3 |
| • Saving Georgia's Hemlocks | 3 |
| • Live Oaks at Wormsloe | 4 |
| • Power of Flight at Panola Mountain | 5 |
| • Bald Eagles Abound! | 5 |
| • BirdFest 2012. | 6 |
| • A Partnership to Battle Non-Native Invasive Weeds | 8 |
| • Broad Interagency Partnership Aids Fire Management | 8 |
| • Volunteers - Dedicated to Service | 9 |
| • Partnerships in Service | 9 |
| • Meet the New Resource Management Staff | 10 |
| • Other Resource Management Accomplishments | 10 |
| • Upcoming Challenges | 11 |

Cultural Resources Management:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| • Bring History to Life | 13 |
| • Civil War Sesquicentennial Events | 13 |
| • Camp Lawton Prison Camp | 14 |
| • Anniversaries of Note | 14 |
| • Protecting Georgia's Cultural Resources | 16 |

Natural Resource Management . . .



- 92,880 acres in Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites
- 523 miles of trails

A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY STATE PARK TREES: GEORGIA POWER'S FORESTRY SERVICES

The Spring House at Indian Springs.



Tornado damage at Black Rock Mountain.



From the forests of longleaf pines at Seminole, Reed Bingham and General Coffee; to the hardwood forests on the north Georgia Parks; to the iconic avenue of live oaks at Wormsloe and the ancient live oaks at Hofwyl, trees are a huge draw and important part of a state park visitor's experience.

One of the most important partnerships that Georgia State Parks has is with Georgia Power's Forestry Services. This statewide partnership provides important arborists services for all of Georgia State Parks and Historic sites.

Some examples of the vital assistance from Georgia Power's Forestry Services include:

- Removal of a very large sweet gum tree that was growing against the historic spring house at Indian Springs State Park.
- Clean-up and removal services after the devastating tornado outbreak of April 2011.
- Reforestation of F.D. Roosevelt State Park with 14,800 longleaf pines after the tornado.

Since 2006, more than 1,000 dangerous trees have been removed from Georgia's State Parks. This work is critical to the health of our trees and the safety of our visitors and staff. Over the years, Georgia Power has planted and re-forested more than 2 million trees in Georgia State Parks!

SAVING GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS

Healthy Hemlock



The threat:

An aphid-like insect native to Asia, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is taking a deadly toll on the hemlocks. Most of the hemlocks ranging from as far north as Maine down the Appalachians into Georgia have succumbed to the HWA. HWA was first detected in Georgia State Parks in 2005 in the northeast corner of Georgia and HWA has most recently been found at Fort Mountain State Park as the adelgid has reached the southern boundary of the range of the hemlock.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on hemlock.

The treatment:

There is a systemic insecticide that kills the hemlock woolly adelgid and protects the tree for approximately 4 to 5 years. State parks began treating hemlocks with the insecticide by using a soil injector but with limited man power, funding, equipment and little training, only a few trees at each of the parks could be treated.

The success of partnerships:

In early 2008 PRHSD began exploring partnership opportunities to protect the hemlocks. Partnerships were forged with:

- Georgia Forestry Commission
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry
- Friends of Georgia State Parks.

These collaborations provided essential training, communication; support and guidance; chemical donations and help from student interns and volunteers. Park staff were able to begin injecting much larger numbers of hemlocks.

The importance of Hemlocks

- Hemlock stands are among the only old growth forests in the east.
- They are of great importance to wildlife, water quality, economy, and basic quality of life
- 11 Georgia state parks have populations of Eastern Hemlock and Carolina Hemlock trees
- These mighty evergreens are a vital part of the ecosystems in these mountainous state parks.

Partnerships have continued to grow as have the number of injected trees.

- Approximately 2,500 trees are now protected and state parks have received several thousand dollars-worth of insecticide.
- Trained volunteers can monitor the injected trees.
- This year, park staff started the second cycle of injections. Unicoi State Park's 450 hemlocks have been re-treated as they reach the five year mark.

Tremendous work lies ahead and partnerships will be critical in preventing the Eastern and Carolina Hemlock from the same fate as that of the American Chestnut.

LIVE OAKS AT WORMSLOE



Live Oak avenue at Wormsloe.

The scenic oak avenue at Wormsloe State Historic Site is probably the most photographed vista in the state of Georgia. The journey down the 1.5-mile avenue is in many ways a voyage back in time. The old road dates to the late 1730s, making it the oldest remaining structure in Savannah.

Since they were planted in the early 1890s, Wormsloe's live oaks have survived a variety of stressful conditions, from high winds and hurricanes to diseases and drought. Most of these trees face continuing threats, such as canopy competition from taller adjacent trees and the vulnerability to disease that comes with dead limbs.

In 2011 the Wormsloe Foundation offered to fund an assessment of the health of the trees and the creation of a plan of care for future maintenance.

- Recommendations for trimming dead limbs
- Modifying the mowing and turf maintenance procedure
- Installing young trees to fill the gaps where older trees have been removed
- Selectively removing competing trees nearby.

Parts of the plan have already been implemented by DNR thanks to the support of the Foundation, which has provided nearly \$10,000 of funding for this purpose. In the next few years, this cooperative effort will continue to protect and preserve one of Georgia's most important natural and cultural treasures.

Nearly 40,000 visitors-a-year drive, walk and photograph the century-old live oaks, which have also served as the backdrop to numerous feature films, such as:

- *Savannah: A River Story* (2011)
- *The Last Song* (2010)
- *The General's Daughter* (1999)
- *Gator* (1975)



Field of wildflowers at the Power of Flight Area at Panola Mountain. Wildflowers pictured are Blue Ageratum in front, Tall Goldenrod in the middle, and Tickseed Sunflower in the back.



A Yellow Breasted Chat at the Power of Flight banding station at Panola Mountain.

POWER OF FLIGHT AT PANOLA MOUNTAIN

Since receiving the Power of Flight grant for Panola Mountain State Park through the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, Southern Company and Georgia Power in 2006-2007, several partnerships have assisted in making the grassland/wetland restoration area a diverse and productive ecosystem.

Numerous organizations and agencies have assisted in transferring what was once biologically barren fescue pasture into a spot that has become a destination for birders, butterfly and dragonfly watchers and wildlife watchers in general. These efforts have included:

- Collaboration with Atlanta Audubon Society Important Bird Areas Coordinator and Department of Natural Resources Non-Game Biologist to increase the amount of acreage in native grass.
- Partnering with The Nature Conservancy and Georgia Forestry Commission to burn and collect native seed contributed to area growth to about 10 acres in 2004-2006.
- A banding station set up in 2007 to study grassland birds.
- With Georgia Ornithological Society Grants, equipment for spraying non-native plants more efficiently was obtained.
- For the past three years, creating burn plans for this area, conducting controlled burns, and organizing volunteer days to collect native seeds have been on-going projects.

The original area planted in native grass, with help from the Georgia Native Plant Society, was about 90' x 90' square. Now there are well over 20 acres established in native grasslands. The work of the combined organizations has created a richer biological area. Bird-banding in the area has documented an increase in a number of species and Panola Mountain also is part of a North American Butterfly Association Count every August.

Bird walks, butterfly walks and dragonfly programs are routinely conducted in this unique habitat, and this year the site will be nominated for the Important Bird Areas Program consideration. With the many partners who have helped create this grassland habitat, we are confident of the chance at being the first state park recognized as a Georgia Important Bird Area.

BALD EAGLES ABOUND!

This year Bald Eagle nests on state parks went from one to three. The longstanding nest at Reed Bingham was successful once again this year and fledged two young eagles. New nests were discovered at Hard Labor Creek State Park on Lake Rutledge and at the soon-to-open Don Carter State Park (opening Spring 2013) on Lake Lanier. We hope these beautiful national birds continue to thrive on our parks and we will strive in our management to continue to provide the habitat these iconic raptors need.



Bald Eagle at Reed Bingham.



Birders at Unicoi's BirdFest 2012.

BIRDFEST 2012

The 2nd annual Georgia Mountain BirdFest was held at Unicoi State Park and Lodge on Thursday, May 3 to Sunday, May 6, 2012. The event included:

- 110 participants, 30 speakers/leaders, and 20 who attended the keynote dinner - total head count over 4 days totaled 160 people.
- Over 60 birding seminars and field trips
- Representation from 6 states and 3 countries making this year's event international
- Learning credits for teachers – the 2011 BirdFest was the first park event/program to provide Professional Learning Units (PLUs) for teachers. This opportunity was offered again in 2012.
- New customers - the majority of participants were new visitors to Unicoi State Park
- \$21,715.50 in lodging, meeting space, food & beverage (not including restaurant), and programming revenue

The conference was a great collaborative effort and example of partnerships between multiple agencies, including:

- Friends of Unicoi, who contributed 141.5 Friends volunteer hours and 217.5 non-Friends volunteer hours and raised over \$700 selling and raffling various bird-related items for their own fundraising effort.
- Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) sponsored the keynote speaker.
- The Atlanta Audubon Society (AAS) provided "in kind" donations.
- Support from multiple government agencies included Nongame Conservation Section of Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia Forestry Commission, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Other experts from organizations such as T.E.R.N., Leica Sport Optics, Birding Adventures, Thru Nature's Eyes Photography, Georgia's Important Bird Areas, The Birder's Library Website, Little St. Simons Island and Wildlife Artists.

The support of important bird organizations in Georgia gives the Georgia Mountain BirdFest an instant reputation and are key to a successful future of the program.



Barred Owl at Fort Mountain.

A PARTNERSHIP TO BATTLE NON-NATIVE INVASIVE WEEDS



This year Georgia State Parks received funding to aid an on-going battle against the encroachment of non-native invasive weeds. Species like Chinese privet and autumn olive on state parks were targeted for treatment and removal. These non-native plants lack any native predators and can form monocultures of weed forests. This reduces overall biodiversity and does not provide good habitat for native wildlife.

Funding was received from the Georgia Forestry Commission through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Georgia Power's Forestry Services assembled teams to attack the invaders. Without the assistance of these two key statewide partnerships this important process in maintaining healthy park landscapes would not be possible. Over the course of several years, Georgia Power's Forestry Services has helped treat 594 acres of non-native invasive plants on Georgia State Parks.

BROAD INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP AIDS FIRE MANAGEMENT

The Interagency Burn Team (IBT) is comprised of specially trained fire management professionals who travel around Georgia to conduct controlled burns (also known as "prescribed burns") on lands that have fire dependent natural communities and rare species living in fire dependent habitat. This 10 year old partnership ensures safe and effective fire management across the state. It has proven extremely successful and beneficial to Georgia State Parks.

Members of the IBT include:

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that provided seed money to get the partnership off and running
- U.S. Forest Service
- The Orianne Society

Fire dependent habitat needs periodic fire to persist. Habitat such as the longleaf pine wiregrass community would slowly disappear without frequent fire giving way to fire intolerant hardwoods such as sweet gum and water oaks. Rare species such as the gopher tortoise and the indigo snake live in longleaf forests and would become rarer without proper fire management.



Pre-burn briefing at James H. (Sloppy) Floyd.



Laying fire at James H. (Sloppy) Floyd.

By joining together through the IBT, public and private entities expand their resource base for conducting safe and effective controlled burns. In addition to sharing resources such as fire engines and trained personnel, the IBT assist each other in continued safety and technical fire training exercises throughout the year. The statewide partnership ensures that Georgia State Parks can maintain healthy and diverse forests and grasslands while also ensuring safety for park visitors and neighbors.

Campground host working at Fort Yargo.



Campground host assisting a guest at Reed Bingham.



Girl Scout river cleanup project at Panola Mountain.



VOLUNTEERS - DEDICATED TO SERVICE

The volunteers in Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites regularly go out of their way to gift hours of in-kind service as they work on trail and maintenance, cleaning up riverbanks, being train conductors, leading hikes, helping new campers set up tents, and more.

Dedicated volunteers and hosts help with park operations from maintenance to park recreational programs. With volunteer assistance, park staff is able to continue to provide the high level of service that visitors expect at Georgia State Parks.

Our volunteers fall into three types of classifications:

- Community volunteers focus their volunteer efforts at one particular park. We have an average of 228 community volunteers that volunteer 4,500 hours for a value of \$97,000 of in-kind service annually.
- Campground, golf or train hosts and commit to an assignment of living in their RV onsite at our parks to help with the day-to-day operations. On average, 700 hosts commit to a minimum of 24 hours of service per week for a minimum of 8 weeks. The value of the in-kind service provided by our hosts is \$2.8million annually.
- Group volunteers dedicate their time to a specific day or project. Our group volunteers average 10-20 participants and provide an in-kind service value of at least \$15,000 annually.

PARTNERSHIPS IN SERVICE

One of our largest partners is The Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites organization. In this fiscal year alone they will have 55,000 documented volunteer hours with a value of \$1.2 million.

By reaching out to corporations and other non-profit organizations we have found more individuals to come to the park offering their expertise and talents. Some of these public/private partnerships include:

- Georgia Conservancy
- REI
- Bank of America
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Local universities

More high schools and universities are requiring a minimum hourly commitment of service learning for their students. By networking with these institutions, we are able to find a new pool of visitors and volunteers. By partnering with these entities, we collaborate to create appropriate events that meet the need and desire of both organizations and are recreational, educational and service-drive.

MEET THE NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Two new positions were added to Resource Management staff this year. These two important positions were filled with veterans of the Division who have a huge range of skills suited to natural resource management. In addition to being Resource Managers, each of them has come forward to represent Parks as Division Chaplains.

Brian Nichols: Northern Resource Manager

Brian's area of coverage is north of I 85 from the Alabama state line to Atlanta and north of I 20 from Atlanta to Augusta. Brian has been with Georgia State Parks for 15 years and has worked at four parks. He'll be protecting hemlocks and dealing with bear populations in North Georgia. He is married with one child and lives in Helen. Brian is an avid mountain biker and outdoorsman.



Brian Nichols

Sim Davidson: Southern Resource Manager

Sim covers the southern portion of the state. A UGA graduate and huge Dawg fan, Sim has worked for Georgia State Parks for 22 years and has worked at five parks. Sim will see lots of time on the fire line since many coastal plain parks have fire dependent longleaf pine forests. He is married with three children and lives in McRae. Sim is an avid runner and enjoys running with his daughters.



Sim Davidson

OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Junior Ranger Program was launched in 2002. This year, 818 children earned Junior Ranger badges by completing nature and outdoor recreational activities. Nearly 8,000 children have earned badges since the start of the program.
- In cooperation with Georgia DNR Game Management, eight parks hosted Quota Deer Hunts to manage the deer herds. Results from these hunts are showing smaller healthier herds.
- In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Reed Bingham State Park instituted a new predator control program for predators of gopher tortoise eggs. Reed Bingham has one of the largest populations of gopher tortoises on state parks.
- A Resource Management Planning process was initiated with several priority parks as part of a comprehensive Park Management Plan.
- A new online program reporting system to collect data on all program offerings at all Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites was implemented in January 2012. Public programs, school programs, other group programs and special events are all entered into this system to provide a summary of all program offerings statewide.



Junior Rangers displaying program badges.



Baby Gopher Tortoise at Reed Bingham.



UPCOMING CHALLENGES

The coming year will bring many natural resource management challenges. Approximately half of our Parks and Historic Sites need prescribed fire management with a quarter of our Parks and Historic Sites home to “fire dependent” habitats. Without fire, fire dependent habitats will disappear. It’s these habitats that house most of the rare and endangered plants and animals. To maintain good habitat for these species we will need to increase acres burned on State Parks this year. Ensuring that we continue to get fire applied safely and effectively will be a challenge.

Non-native invasive species will continue to advance and degrade habitat without continued efforts on our part to control these weeds and eradicate them where possible. Kudzu, privet, autumn olive and other invaders will continually need to be addressed. The many lakes on State Parks are a huge draw to our visitors and a valuable asset to our Division. Unfortunately non-native invasive weeds, like hydrilla, infest many of our lakes too. We will need to continue to investigate and implement aquatic weed control methods on our lakes.

Just recently the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was confirmed at Cloudland Canyon State Park. This marks the southernmost expansion of this forest pest. We will now have to increase our efforts to save the hemlocks to another part of the state, stretching our resources further. In addition to addressing this new infestation we must treat at least 3,800 hemlocks on 5 parks. The work is cost and labor intensive but without it we will surely lose our signature hemlocks.





- 7 House Museums
- 20 Museums (with 2 under development at Hardman Farm and Magnolia Springs)
- 160 Historic Structures
- 3 outdoor statues
- Approximately 1,000,000 artifacts

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Special events and public programs draw lots of visitors to our parks and historic sites. Aided by Friends Of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites volunteers, living history programs are big attractions at both parks and historic sites. These programs teach people about the past through demonstration. Guests learn how to make candles, dye and spin wool, cook over an open fire or on a hearth, and, in some cases, actually taste the results of the cooking demonstrations. They can learn old-fashioned games such as the Indian game of chunky or blind man's bluff, as well as watch cannons and blackpowder rifles being fired.



Great Railroad Chase re-enactment at Allatoona Pass near Red Top Mountain.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

April 12, 2011, began the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the "War Between the States". In Georgia, most of the special programs to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial will take place in 2014 ending in December with the attack on Fort McAllister ending Sherman's March to the Sea.

A number of programs and events are taking place throughout the State and Georgia Historic Sites play a major role:

- The Great Locomotive Chase occurred in 1862 and on April 21-22, 2012, local re-enactors recreated a portion of this historic event. Many different groups were involved in planning and staging, including:
 - Red Top Mountain State Park - site of Allatoona Pass, where part of the chase occurred.
 - Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History - home to The General, the steam engine involved in the Great Locomotive Chase.
- Development of Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site begins in 2012 in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Resaca (May 13–14, 1864).
- The museum at A.H. Stephens State Historic Park will receive a makeover of its exhibits. A.H. Stephens was a politician from Crawfordville who became Vice President of the Confederacy and served as the 50th Governor of Georgia from 1882 until his death in 1883. Liberty Hall, Stephens' home and a Confederate museum can be found at his namesake historic park. The new exhibits will be completed by March 2013 to commemorate the 130th anniversary of A.H. Stephens' death.
- Exhibits at Pickett's Mill Battlefield will be refurbished.



CAMP LAWTON PRISON CAMP

Conversion of the old Civilian Conservation Corps "Casino" at Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen is underway. The building will house exhibits and artifacts from Camp Lawton, a Civil War prison camp established in 1864. The prison, intended to reduce over-crowding at the Andersonville prison, operated briefly from October of 1864 before it was abandoned in late November in advance of Sherman's troops on their March to the Sea.

Attempts made to identify the exact location of the stockade and features associated with the prison include:

- Starting in 2005, archaeologists from the Georgia Department of Transportation donated ground-penetrating radar (GPR) equipment and their technical expertise to initiate a GPR baseline survey of the park.
- In 2009 by more extensive GPR work undertaken by the LAMAR Institute. This survey detected what was interpreted as two walls of the stockade meeting at the front left corner of the prison.
- Dr. Sue Moore of the Anthropology Department at Georgia Southern University was recruited to conduct the archaeological excavations. With the assistance from a number of students, Dr. Moore has spent the last three years at the site, verifying the location of the stockade and investigating the area where prisoners were held within the stockade.

Jenkins County officials successfully applied for a One Georgia grant to develop a museum on the property. A team of representatives from the county, along with US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Anthropology at Georgia Southern University; DNR's Historic Preservation Division and State Parks and Historic Sites, have worked together to design exhibits interpreting the prison and the first phase of exhibits will be installed in Fall 2012.

ANNIVERSARIES OF NOTE

- 2012 is the bicentennial of the War of 1812. This war pitted Americans against the British, who supplied troops made up of Canadians and Indian tribes to prevent the annexation of Canada. Georgia became embroiled in the war in a number of arenas. The British blockade of the coast provided us with Fort Morris Historic Site, adjacent to the historic town of Sunbury. It was at this site during the Revolutionary War, that a fort was constructed but later fell into disrepair. Named Fort Defiance, it was rebuilt for the War of 1812.



School group working at Magnolia Springs' Camp Lawton Prison Camp site under the supervision of Georgia Southern University archaeologists.

Amanda Morrow of Georgia Southern University, stabilizing the wood in the ground on what is believed to be a deadline post, for removal.

The key to the left is one of the artifacts found by Amanda during excavations at the site.





- This year also marks the 50th anniversary of New Echota Historic Site. In 1962, New Echota, the capital of Cherokee Indian Territory from 1825 until the Indians were forcibly removed on the Trail of Tears in 1838, became a historic site. Still important to the Cherokee, the anniversary was marked by a celebration on May 12, which was attended by representatives of the Cherokee Nation.

PROTECTING GEORGIA'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resources Unit staff devotes their time to the care and management of approximately 1 million artifacts that range in age from prehistoric stone tools to bronze statues dedicated to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 2012, the Preservation Laboratory, now operated by the Historic Preservation Division, expanded its secure storage with acquisition of a building at Panola Mountain State Park and completed the relocation of artifacts into the facility. The new building is complete with a special climate control system and more than doubled previous storage capacity.

Responsibilities for cultural resource management include:

- Monitoring the environmental quality inside museums and historic structures
- Providing technical assistance regarding cleaning and conservation of artifacts
- Procuring services of specialists for complicated conservation projects such as:
 - Care for Civil War coats or jackets, a 19th century wedding dress, prehistoric Mississippian Period copper and shell ornaments, and numerous paintings.
 - Aircraft and artillery pieces displayed outdoors at Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park
 - A Civil War flag that flew over Fort McAllister State Historic Park.
- Managing donations and coordinating loans of original artifacts for DNR's collections.
- Managing approximately 2,000 state historic markers including missing and damaged markers, damaged posts, cleaning, refurbishing and painting.
- Acting as DNR's liaison to the Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns. The Council was created by the Georgia Legislature in 1992 to help protect Indian graves and burial objects from accidental and intentional desecration. In addition to the protection of Indian burial sites they:
 - Facilitate the return of Indian human remains and burial objects from museums in Georgia whose collections are not subject to federal law
 - Foster the cultural heritage of Georgia's American Indians
 - Advise state and local governments on issues regarding American Indians.
- Responding to public inquiries regarding Georgia's history with careful research to ensure the accuracy of the information.
- Developing museum exhibits and interpretive panels for parks and historic sites.
 - In 2012, the museum exhibits at A.H. Stephens, Pickett's Mill and Etowah under went modest changes that included new artifact labels, new graphics, reorganization of artifacts and new artifact mounts.
 - Conceptual designs for future new exhibits were developed for Etowah and Magnolia Springs.
 - Installation of some of the Camp Lawton exhibits is scheduled for Fall 2012.
 - Since January of 2010, over 120 outdoor interpretive panels have been designed for: Fort Mountain, Hardman Farm, Allatoona Pass, Red Top Mountain, Magnolia Springs, Georgia Veterans and Fort Yargo.
- Working with film crews on major motion pictures, television series, and documentary films to establish guidelines for use that balances a maximum protection of these priceless cultural resources with the flexibility to allow the film crew to get their shots.



Jack Baker (left) and Barbara McAllister were key players at the 50th Anniversary of New Echota. Mr. Baker is Cherokee Nation Council-At-Large Member and National President Trail of Tears and Mrs. McAllister (right) is a Cherokee Nation member and American dramatic mezzo-soprano.

Recent Filming Locations have been:

- Warm Springs Swimming Pool (HBO)
- Interior & exterior scenes at Chief Vann House & New Echota (WGBH)
- Pickett's Mill's 1850s Cabin (Sony, NPS)
- Roosevelt's Little White House & FD Roosevelt State Park (Ken Burns' Florentine Films)
- New Manchester ruins at Sweetwater Creek State Park (Millennium Films/ Corsan Pictures)



SPECIAL THANKS TO:



back cover photo: Wormsloe's tabby ruins, the oldest standing structures in Savannah.



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

2600 Highway 155 SW, Suite C
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281