

The Transition

Of and For Former N.C. State Park Employees

February 2007

Issue No.12

The past year has been eventful in several ways. Alumni have reported meaningful events in their lives. An enjoyable Former Employee Reunion at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park gave many of us an opportunity to get reacquainted; it is good to remember that we are friends as well as former co-workers.

Speaking of friends, we all lost four very good friends this year. Mr. "Coot" Gullledge, former Superintendent of Crowders Mountain State Park, passed away December 5. Mr. Al Peloquin, former state park architect died on January 18, 2007. Mr. Ray Williams died last May; he was the maintenance mechanic at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park. We also lost a very special friend in Mr. Tom Ellis, who established many of the standards upon which our state park system rests and who passed away in December 30.

This has also been an eventful year in another respect; several state parks employees have been "promoted" to alumni. I don't believe that I can recall a year with as many folks retiring. With this issue I am adding a new column which will be called "New Additions".

Also, whenever you get a chance, be sure to thank Leon Carter for his conscientious work as The Transition star reporter! Don't forget Kevan Burnett for the use of his web site over the previous several issues; Nelson Chadwick for his help with photograph enhancement; and Tommy Wagoner for his assistance with the alumni reunion mailings.

Finally, as a reminder, if you would like a hard copy of the Transition, please send \$1.00 to cover the cost of postage and paper. To all of those with computers, Kevan Burnett can no longer provide a web site for The Transition; however, Nelson Chadwick has agreed to provide a web site for this issue. Thanks Nelson!

<http://mysite.verizon.net/~vze7gqo9/transition12.htm>

<http://mysite.verizon.net/~vze7gqo9/FNCSPE.htm>

Get in Touch and Stay in Touch!

John L. Sharpe

Events

The Fourth North Carolina State Parks Former Employee Reunion

On October 21, 2007 twenty-one alumni and spouses attended the reunion at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park picnic shelter. Joe and Pat Franklin, Phil and Barbara McCorkle, Claude Crews, Leon and Annie Laura Carter, Brownie Southerland, Mike Seigh, Tommy and Mary Wagoner, Judy Warren, Lauris Joyner, Scott Daughtry, Robert and Patsy Skinner, Roy and Betty Rogers, Mr. T.C. Ellis, and Ginger and myself. We also had a special guest of, soon to become one of the former employee ranks, Supt. Dan Smith.



Everyone had a great time with the fellowship and the world's greatest picnic. The Cliffs new picnic shelter provided a wonderful location for the reunion and the weather was especially cooperative. As part of the program, I read the list of "Those Who Will be Missed", former employees who have died. Each alumni gave the group a short recap of their lives since becoming unemployed. It was especially meaningful for all of us to see and speak with Mr. Ellis. He seemed to be feeling well and was in good spirits. A close race between two contestants for the F.N.C.S.P.F.E.R. pronunciation contest was won by Mr. Ellis.



Notes from Leon Carter

Report on Cedric and Mr. Ellis (June 26):

John,

Don't know where you stand on the next Transition. Have to admit, will not have much this time. One thing I do have is on Cedric. Was in contact with his son Reid back about the first of the year. Reid said Cedric was in early stages of Alzheimer's, and he was thinking seriously of put him into a nursing home. Received an email from Reid this afternoon saying Cedric's contact info is:

Cedric Squires
% Kerner Ridge Assisted Living Center
250 Hopkins Road
Kernersville, NC 27284

Had nothing else to say about Cedric. I will try to run out to see Cedric. He is within 2 hours of me.

Reid did say that he started college today (trying for a degree as PE Teacher.) Is living in Greensboro, did not give address on himself.

Am still working on that history of the parks. Every times I'm working on it something else pops up that I think should be in it. Have just about got it completed through 1929 (many more pages through 2006, not organized) will send you a copy, Mt Mitchell & Ft Macon is in that first section. Putting in 3 to 4 hrs most every day. Hope to have this finished by the first of next year.

Am seeing Mr. Ellis a couple of times every week. He's using a cane now and can't walk every far (I can't walk much further) He is doing exceptionally well for 94. With exception of headaches.

Leon

Reid Squires sends this report to Carter (2-1-07):

Hi Leon,

Just wanted to let you know that late April we will be moving Dad to Kansas City , MO. I am moving in 2 weeks due to employment and since I'm his power of attorney, and healthcare power of attorney it will be difficult if he stays in NC.

Thought that you could pass the word around so that anyone wanting to see Dad before he goes can do so.

Reid

News Updates

Dan Smith's retirement party at Cliff of Neuse, Oct 30, '06:

Dan's Mother, Father and Brother were honored guest. The usual awards were made, Lewis Ledford told of the achievement he had gained, Scott Daughtry & Cliff Phillips had some nice things to say, Roy Rodgers a nice speal about when he first met Dan, Dan was a Park Attendant, under Roy in the campground at Cliffs of Neuse. When Roy retired as Ranger III from Cliffs of Neuse, Dan was Supt of Cliffs of Neuse, moral of that story, be nice to people on the way-up, you may meet them later in life. Several others made comments. Of course there were a few barbs and daggers, inserted in Dan's ribs. He also received some nice "get out of here gifts." Out of the approx 75 in attendance, 9 of us were Formers, including Mr. Tom Ellis. A very nice party put together by Sherry Quinn and Bonita Meeks. Good time had by all.

David Kellam writes(June 29):

Ok, another July 4 is here and when you are in the tourist industry or parks, you do not look forward to it coming but you are overjoyed when it is over. I am about ready for our big weekend and just wanted to drop a note to those people whom come to my thoughts, a note to say enjoy and I hope you have a safe, relaxing time.

Alan Eakes writes (May 30):

Dear John,

I'm sorry for not participating more with all of my retired State Park friends. Be assured that this lapse of mine has nothing to do with the way I feel about all who have served the "system". I love them all! It's about time that I brought you up to date with the Eakes family. As you know, I "officially" retired at the end of January 2002 with 31 years of state service. I would have continued working but my wife suffered a debilitating stroke on October 20, 2001. I looked after her during her slow recovery and when, in mid-2002, she said "Why don't you go back to work" I knew she was well on her way and wanted me out from under foot. At about that time, Bayard Alcorn asked me if I was interested in some part time, temporary work and my wife (Linda) said "Do it!" I've been doing it ever since. I was fortunate to be able to work on; developing criteria for expanding the state park system, evaluating potential areas for inclusion in the system using those criteria, developing potential schemes for expanding Lake James State Park, and lastly coordinating the development of a master plan for the new section of the park.

Linda and I had decided to downsize and move into something simpler in Raleigh. After looking some and thinking lots we decided it would make sense to move to Charlotte where our daughter and son-in law and soon to be first grandchild were. Our grandson was born on June 5, 2005 and we moved the end of that August. It was the best move we ever made. We watch little Hall on Wed., Thurs., and Fri., rest on the weekend and usually travel to Raleigh on Mon. or Tues. I have power-of-attorney for my ex secretary Allene Woods who is now in an assisted living facility in Raleigh (Morningside of Raleigh, 801 Dixie Trail #241, Ral. 27607). She is in pretty good shape for 89 and I'm sure she would welcome visits or notes. She may not remember all of the "old timers" but she sure would like to talk about the old times. Mr. Ellis and Leon Carter have been to see her a number of times and Arnold Aiken stopped in some time ago.

I get to see Fred Hagenberger quite often as his wife Chris is my wife's "Feldenkrais" therapist. Fred is a happy camper in retirement. He has gotten back to playing his accordion. Can you picture him in a mall or ice cream store playing for tips? He has been "discovered" and plays a fair number of gigs for clubs and special events. His youngest daughter just finished her first year of college.

I also see Bryan Taylor as often as I can. He has become an expert vegetable gardener and I've tasted the fruits of his labors. He has also become an old movie expert and has quite a collection of tapes and DVD's. He also has quite a collection of World War II movies. There's not much he can't tell you about each of these areas of interest. And then there's the Wolf pack!

Linda and I have family in NY, FL, NM and CA so we spend our "spare" time traveling. We will spend 11 days with our son and daughter-in-law in San Francisco starting next week. We have a family week at Emerald Isle in mid-August, a wedding to shoot in Raleigh at the end of August, a trip to Buffalo somewhere in there, Florida for Thanksgiving and Buffalo for Christmas. We are just beginning planning a western trip for next summer with two of our best friends. Hopefully that will get us to Albuquerque with family, Carson City to see Steve Weaver and wife Kathy (Steve was one of State Parks planners in the 70's and co-authored the

"Now or Never" document as an intern), our kids in San Francisco , and hopefully some of the northwest. It's true what so many retirees before me have said "There's just not enough time" or "My calendar is always full".

We would love to hear from folks and even have them visit. Y'all come.

Tristina C. McKeithan reports (April 24):

Hi John,

I just wanted to thank you for keeping me on the list. I've really enjoyed keeping up with former park folks and how they are. I miss it so much, but S.C. has proven to be very nice for Glenn and me. I am continuing with my radiation treatments for my breast cancer, and am doing fine so far. God is good, isn't He. :) I hope you are doing well.

Have a great week, and thanks again. Keep them coming! :)

Tristina C. McKeithan
Former JONE OA III

Dennis Helms writes (October 16):

Good morning John:

I hope things are going well with you. Everything is going well here in Gates County. I really appreciate your reminder and work regarding the upcoming reunion. Unfortunately, due to a previous commitment, I will not be able to make this year's reunion. Hopefully, I will be able to go next time. Please tell everyone "Hello" for me. I miss seeing state parks people. Just by chance Barbara and I ran into Lauris Joyner a couple of months ago in Nashville, NC. We went to his house and visited with He and Becky for a little while. It was really nice seeing them. Anyway, I hope you folks have a good time and we hope to make the next one.

Thanks again.
Dennis

Dan Smith reports to Leon Carter (November 22):

Leon,

It was good to see you again at the big party on the 30th. I have been so busy working on the house I bought that I have not had any time to really think about retirement. I am sure it will come in due time. I hope to be moving from the Cliffs to Clayton beginning next week. I am presently waiting for the carpet people to show to install today. Guess I will begin hanging the window blinds since it is no good to be outside today.

Here is my new mailing address, e-mail, and phone number.

Daniel Smith
509 Starling Street
Clayton, NC 27520

(919) 359-0788
dsmith359@earthlink.net>

Take care and hope you have a good Thanksgiving.

Jim Hallsey writes (October 13):

Hello to all,

Jennie and I send our best to all you folks and regrets that we again are unable to attend the reunion. We will be at Nags Head with family for some great R&R, fellowship and fall fishing. We stay busy with church duties, family (especially the three grand children: Haywood,7, Hallsey,4, and Hamilton,2),quilting guild, care ministries, Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail, and a little consulting work for the Horse Council. My workshop is up and running and I'm taking on some small cabinetry and custom furniture jobs which I really enjoy. I bump into Jay, Joe and Harold Moses from time to time in Ashe County and occasionally even get out to a park where I am amazed at the ongoing growth, additions and improvements. What a privilege to have shared a big part of my life on the "state parks journey" with you all!

Peace and Joy

Jim Hallsey

Tom Wells informs us (1-11-07):

Attention Big News!

To All Present and Newly Added Readers of the Slackass Inc. "Newsletter". (now you "present" know who you are: fortunate recipients of the Past Slackass Inc. Newsletters) You Newly Added Readers will be befuddled because you haven't received one before...let me know if you wish to see the last one and I'll send it to you when I get around to it.

Now the BIG NEWS. CEO, Grand Fizzer and Great Munificence of Slackass Inc. Tom Wells will appear on an international TV production of the BBC's "Moving Up" show this coming January 13 2007 Saturday at 8:00 p.m. EST, airing appropriately enough on The Learning Channel. I report this to you in all modesty of course. Linda Wells will have a minor part in the production.

A word about the upcoming issue, when I get to it, of the next Vaunted Slackass Inc. Newsletter. It will be devoted to animal history and Slackass Coleman's streaking episode at Durham Regional Hospital. There will also be a story regarding the inclusion and induction of a new member of the Board of Directors of Slackass Inc. You may wish to call Mr. Ken Hagan of Jacksonville NC with your envy, adoration and congratulations.

The Vaunted Slackass Inc. Newsletter will be adding a new feature in the next issue whenever I get to the writing of it. It will be entitled "Ask the Slackass Pros" and will consist of questions which perplex you our readers. The Slackass Pros will thoughtfully answer and provide counseling to the questioners. The Slackass Pros have received one question already: Sent in by Mabel "Bigneasy" Bunch, it has to do with offensive personal hygiene of her fiancé and third cousin Burwell "Tractor Pull" Bunch. Both question and answer, along with counseling for "Bigneasy" and "Tractor Pull" will be featured in the next Vaunted Slackass News Letter.

Yours in great humbleness and good looks

Thomas Wells, CEO and Great Truthsayer
Slackass Inc.

New Additions

Albert Larry Ouzts

504 Pine Street
Knightdale NC 27545
Phone: 266-0336
email: Ouztsml@aol.com
Bank Account Numbers:
ICECREAMISGOODFORALZHEIMERS

Fred Reno

2601 Valley Woods Court
Raleigh, NC 27613
919-870-9428
fredreno@bellsouth.net

Donald Jones, Goose Creek Maint. Mech.

3587 US 264 East
Washington, NC 27889
Tel. # (252) 946-4712.

Harry Lee Edwards, Ranger, Lake Waccamaw State Park

366 Creek Ridge Road
Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450
Tel. # (910) 646-3852

Lynn Alexander, Maint. Mech. at Lake James State Park

Lynn's home address is
PO Box 2547
Drexel, NC 28619
phone number: 828-433-0616
email: lynnjudy@bellsouth.net.

Craig Steinmetz, Maint. Mech. II, Hammocks Beach State Park

Craig Steinmetz
136 Leslie Drive
Hubert, NC 28539
Home Phone: 910-326-3387

Dan Smith, Supt. Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

509 Starling Street
Clayton, NC 27520
(919) 359-0788
dsmith359@earthlink.net

Henry Stokes, Ranger, Dismal Swamp State Natural Area

PO Box 57
Belvedere, NC, 27919
phone # is 252-297-2510

Those Who Will Be Missed:



Mr. Thomas Cedric Ellis , 94, of Wake Forest, passed away Saturday evening [Dec. 30].

He was born in Bladen County, NC, the son of the late Rosa Cain Ellis and John Oliver Ellis. He is also preceded in death by his wife, Myrtle Little Ellis and a grandchild, Jennifer Toomey.

Daddy was a man who was bigger than life and whoever's life he touched, he left a part of himself. He was deeply devoted to his God, his family and friends, and his work. He was a man of deep and abiding faith with a very personal relationship with his God and Jesus Christ. He will be missed by all. He has left us a wonderful legacy of life, love of country and his fellowman. **WE LOVE YOU DADDY!**

Mr. Ellis was the Superintendent of the North Carolina State Park Service, where he worked for 35 years. He was a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest honor for service and dedication. Mr. Ellis, prior to

his Army service in WWII, he worked with the North Carolina CCC's. He was a member of Rolesville Baptist Church. Mr. Ellis served on the State Employees Credit Union Advisory Board and also served as Moderator for the Yates Baptist Association.

Surviving are three daughters, Phenie Bowen and husband, Charlie H., of Wilmington, Thelma Jernigan and husband, Mike, of Durham, Sandra Fishow and husband, Thom of Wake Forest; grandchildren, Chuck Toomey and wife, Mary Ann of Suwanee, GA, Sharon Gaines of Durham, Sharon Wilson Barboza and husband, Frank of Carlsbad, CA, Christy Jernigan of Chapel Hill, Amy Krizek and husband, Kevin of Knoxville, TN, Kristen Bowen of Lexington, KY, Suzanne Simons and husband, Mike of Nashville, TN, Jessica Tugwell and husband, Ben of Atlanta GA, Ashley Hayes and husband, Taylor, of Wake Forest, Matt Fishow of Wake Forest; great-grandchildren, Frankie Barboza, Brianna Barboza, Caleb Hayes, Max Toomey, Austin Hayes, Spencer Toomey, Jennifer Krizek and Nola Simons.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in Clements Funeral Chapel with Dr. Randy Bridges officiating. Burial will follow in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends Wednesday from 12:30-2:00 p.m. at Clements Funeral Home in Durham.

Published in The News & Observer on 1/1/2007.

Leon Carter's report on Mr. Ellis' funeral (January 11)

John,

Last night when you called, I had just sat down and put my mind in neutral. This morning I happened to think about something I had written-up on Mr. E last year for the division website "Old Faces, New Places." Am sending it to you as an attachment. Welcome to use any part of it if it will be any help.

Also have given some thought to the number of people at the funeral service. There were at least 15-16 uniforms, 8 of them pall bearers. Think all went to the grave side. I counted 40 uniforms, active employees and formers (we were all standing together), at the grave side. I know I saw at least 15-20 more at the chapel that didn't come to the cemetery. I wouldn't be scared to say, parks were represented by at least 60 persons. Called the funeral director this morning, asking what his estimate was of the number at the funeral. He said close to 300 people. I think I knew 100 of them.

Let me get back in with the wife, to go through her physical therapy again. She's been out of the hospital 9 days & is getting around in the house with no walker or cane. Had her out of the house, more or less just riding, on a cane (walker in the back of the truck, just in case.)

Yesterday the therapist says she is doing fine. She is working hard at it, even when it hurts.

Leon

(1-23-07) There was no mention in Tom Ellis' obit as to where a Memorial could be sent. Several of our people have asked me about this. Then each of them have suggested the Friends of State Parks.

Mr. Ellis has mentioned to me, that the only hobby he ever had, was his work, State Parks. He has been a past President and served on the Board of Directors of the Friends ever since his retirement. I have received word in the last couple of days that the Friends (I was contacted by them for an address of the family) have received several donations towards his memorial.

If any of you are interested, the address is;

Friends of State Parks

PO Box 37655

Raleigh, NC 27627

Several of you did not receive my notice of Mr. Ellis' death on Dec. 30. It is because I had the wrong email address or no address. John Sharp has just sent me an up-date.

Leon

James "Coot" Gulledge

Published: December 06, 2006 08:50 am
'Coot' Gulledge

Tuesday, December 5, 2006 - James Clyde "Coot" Gulledge, 74, of 136 Pine St., Badin, died at 1:05 a.m., Friday, Dec. 1, 2006, in Stanly Regional Medical Center.

His funeral was at 2 p.m. Sunday at graveside in Fairview Memorial Park. The Rev. Dan Abernathy officiated and military rites were conducted by Stanly County DAV Chapter 12.

Born April 23, 1932, in Stanly County, he was a son of the late James Ellis and Mable Brown Gulledge and was a park ranger for the state of North Carolina.

His wife, Ruby Nowling Gulledge, preceded him in death.

He is survived by a brother, Colon Curtis Gulledge of California; and a sister, Shirley Blackburn, 8396 Normandy Rd, Denver, NC 28037.

Memorials may be made to Stanly Community Christian Ministry, P.O. Box 58, Albemarle, NC 28002. As per Hartsell's Funeral Home, below is the name of the person who made the funeral arrangements for Coot Gulledge (the funeral home did not have further info on the brother or sister). Contact Mr. Hicks to see if you can get info to contact Coot's brother or sister.

H O Hicks
324 5th Street
Albemarle NC 28001
(704) 982-4611

[Provided by Toni Phillips of Morrow Mountain State Park]

Also, here is the telephone number for the Stanly Community Christian Ministry - (704) 982-7915

Mr. Ray Williams

Ray was the Maintenance Mechanic at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park. He had worked there since 1989. Leon Carter reports (May 23): I attended Ray Williams funeral last Thursday at Goldsboro, SP represented by 25, some spouses, think there were 6-8 formers there. He was maintenance at Cliffs of Neuse since 1989, Had gone on short term disability after running out of sick leave. Did not find out what sickness.

Mr. Al Peloquin

HILLSBOROUGH - Albert A. Peloquin, 76, of Hillsborough, passed away on January 18, 2007.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1930, Mr. Peloquin had lived in Orange County since 1974. Mr. Peloquin practiced architecture until his retirement in 1993. He had a pioneering role in disabled-accessibility design. Mr. Peloquin was an avid stamp collector and a lover of classical music.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Florence Peloquin; son, Jeffrey Peloquin and his wife, Linda, of Hillsborough; son Albert Peloquin of Durham; daughter, Mary Peloquin-Dodd and husband, Mark, of Maplewood, N.J.; daughter, Jean Williams and husband, Rick, of Durham; and daughter Beth Peloquin of Durham. Mr. Peloquin is also survived by seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Friends are invited to a visitation on Monday, January 22, at 10 a.m., at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael Drive, in Chapel Hill. The funeral Mass follows at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Inter-Faith Council at 110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, N.C., 27510.

The Cremation Society of the Carolinas is handling the arrangements.