



The Limpkin

Newsletter of Friends Of
Silver River State Park, Inc.

June 2008

Calendar

2nd Tuesday, 6 pm, CSO Board & Members Meeting

1st Saturday June-Sept: "Earth-friendly" presentations

2nd Saturday October-December: Stargazing

3rd Saturday October-December: Coffee with the birds

4th Saturday October-December: Cracker Village Tour

September 20: Springs Festival

Contact Deborah Wilson (352) 236-7148
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Friends of Silver River State Park, Inc.

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Notes from Park Manager Bob LaMont

I'd like to take this opportunity to express gratitude for the many ways that CSO members are supporting the park. Although your organization is still in its infancy, the volunteer efforts are remarkable. Thanks to the CSO we:

- Have held our first Bluegrass Music Festival
- Seen *Pancakes in the Park* and *Phantoms in the Forest* become well loved annual events
- Are advertising special Saturday morning programs to educate about water issues
- Anticipate record attendance for the Marion County Springs Festival in September.

Not only do your efforts shine in regard to special programming, but also in other areas of support. One member is repairing picnic tables, another cleans trails, another is building kiosks and has built many benches that now adorn the trails. Still others keep the kiosk in the museum parking lot up to date with current events, make posters and flyers to advertise events, cut firewood. All of these things are happening, leaving Park staff free to achieve other necessary duties.

Many thanks to you for all your efforts. Silver River State Park would be a lesser park were it not for your assistance.

News From the Ranger Station

Claudia and Mark Waiwada took aluminum to the recycle center and came back with a check for \$140.70, making our YTD total \$281.78.

Eugene Lezark has been working almost daily repairing picnic tables.

440 bags of ice have been sold. Net profit = \$383.

2008 Firewood sales through May: \$1,965, although we currently have a complete burn ban due to the drought.

Soft drink machines have been installed. The CSO will receive a percentage of sales every 6 months. No payment yet.

Ongoing ranger programs – Stargazing, Coffee with the Birds and Cracker Village Tour – will resume in October.

The park has a new reservation system with Reserve America after several months of extremely frustrating switching between systems. It now appears to be a very nice program, much better than the old one.

Canoe rentals will begin sometime in June. There will be 12 canoes locked on a rack down at the end of the River Trail. Guests will pay at the Ranger Station where they will pick up their paddles and life vest, then walk the ½ mile down to the canoe. Details to come; call the Ranger Station and watch the website for updates.

Planning for the Springs Festival is coming along nicely. Horse and carriage has been reserved for 4 hours that day. Vince Druding has pontoon boats lined up for river tours. Vendors are starting to send in completed applications. Soon we'll make a major mailing to enlist exhibitors and vendors. Some help stuffing envelopes would be appreciated. No definite date yet, but if interested let Deb know at (352) 236-7148 so she can call you when ready.

Roger Rose and Jon Piper will be rejuvenating our old kiosks and building a new one for the Ranger Station. Thanks to the Hughes, the kiosk in the museum parking lot has been kept up to date.

GET GREENER!

By Taryn Evans

You may be eagerly awaiting your “stimulus” check, ready and willing to do your part to help buck up the economy! I can't say that I'm one to encourage spending instead of saving, but if you must buy something, perhaps a new Energy Star appliance will fit the bill.

For example, if your refrigerator is over 10 years old, you could be using enough power each year to light your house for up to four months! Newer Energy Star-qualified models can be 40 percent more efficient. And new Energy Star rated dishwashers can save as much as 5,000 gallons of water a year as compared to dishwashers bought a decade ago. For more info on Energy Star appliances:

www.recyclemyoldfridge.com and
www.thegreenguide.com/products/appliances/dishwashers

Now that you've spent *that* check, take your tax refund and put it into a “greener” mutual fund. For more info on supporting environmentally and socially responsible businesses, check out this website:
www.thegreenguide/doc/ask/invest



The CSO was well represented at the March 8-9 Master Gardener's event. Shown are Claudia Spiewak and Ev Gawenda on Sunday. Gene, Vince, Chuck and Linda also staffed the table bedecked with our new table covering. They gave out over 50 CSO applications.



More than 2 dozen trail riders participated in a special trail ride on the North side of the park on April 19. Mickey Summers was guiding, pointing out heritage trees and historical landmarks. Hellena Smejda represented the CSO and took this picture from horseback (which is why it's blurry).



Vince Druding and committee organized a successful “1st Annual Bluegrass in the Park Festival” in May.

President's Message *by Taryn Evans*

It's been an "event-full" time at Silver River State Park since our last newsletter, with all kinds of CSO activity. In the past four months, the Friends have:

- Hosted two fundraisers (*Pancakes in the Park* and *Bluegrass in the Park*)
- Reached out to the community through five events/programs (Marion County Spring Garden Festival, Earth Day, a Green Roof workshop, Trail Ride with the Marion County Horsemen's Association, and Seniors in the Park)
- Volunteered at another great annual event in the park (Florida Eggfest)
- Been recognized on a statewide level for our volunteers and for an event nominated for CSO Event of the Year (*Phantoms in the Forest*).

Our fundraising over the past three years has finally reached a point where we can begin to significantly help the park financially too. This was given a boost recently by the CSO starting to sell firewood and ice to park patrons.

Yes, the CSO got 2008 started off with a bang and now, with summer approaching, things will slow down slightly. Please make time to attend at least one of our CSO-sponsored programs the 1st Saturday of June, August and September. These programs will be focusing on local water issues and will lead up to the 7th Annual Springs Festival to be held at the park September 20. The CSO is one of many local community sponsors of this annual festival.

As I look back to where we as a CSO have been and forward to where we are going, let me say now how proud I am to be part of this organization. When I attended the State CSO Conference a couple of weeks ago, it was all I could do not to spend every moment bragging about what we've accomplished. But in a room full of dedicated volunteers from around the state, you quickly come to realize that your CSO is not the only one with people eager to help their park. You also swiftly learn that other Friends organizations struggle with some of the same problems.

One of these is how to get more members actively volunteering in the park and with CSO activities. Amazingly, most of the activity listed above was produced by the same handful of people and I want to thank them for the hours of time they have given to this CSO! They make this CSO what it is.

I'm challenging myself to see that their hard work for the CSO results in greater participation from all CSO members, whether that means greater attendance at events and programs or more volunteering in the park. More member participation means a stronger CSO, and the park deserves that as does the CSO!

Monthly CSO meetings will continue through the summer, and it would be nice to meet more of our members at these gatherings. Also, I plan to have a couple of special meetings during the "slow" summer months that will focus on "*Membership and Board Development*" and "*Volunteering in the Park.*" Please watch for details about these.

A Dozen Things a Friend can do at the Park...

1. Maintain trails: signage, markers, etc.
2. Pot and transplant pines from around the ranger station and move them to the greenhouse
3. Restoration area: mulch the cut piles, cut up any wood that can be saved for fire wood sales, burn piles, re-seed
4. Mow trails on a regular basis
5. Picnic tables: replace the warped boards, sand the bad spots, seal the tables with wood preservative
6. Repair the greenhouse
7. Maintain fences
8. Staff the museum
9. Take admission fees at the ranger station
10. Pressure-wash the boardwalk, sidewalks, pavilions, picnic area
11. Tackle the "Big Project" (PAR course workout stations on the Sand Hill Trail)
12. Chop and stack firewood (fund raiser for CSO)

Just show up, or contact Ranger Christopher Pintard (352) 572-0599 or christopher.pintard@dep.state.fl.us

Civil War Encampment Held in April

As an Eagle Scout Project, Jonathan Yonce organized a Civil War Encampment with the 2nd South Carolina Company A Governor's Guard and a Federal Unit from St Augustine. Drilling, artillery inspection, authentic campfire cooking on Saturday culminated with the re-enactment of a skirmish Saturday evening. Park Manager Robert LaMont presented Yonce with a certificate in appreciation of all his hard work. Keith "Skippy" Cornelius, who has been organizing encampments at Silver River for several years, was also honored for his years of supporting the park through encampments and other volunteer activities.



Jonathan Yonce (center) and Keith Cornelius with their certificates of appreciation

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