

# News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Volume 18 Number 2

Visit our website at: [www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org](http://www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org)

Spring Quarterly 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elaine Spencer



**\*\*SAVE THE DATE: SEE DETAILS BELOW ABOUT THE FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING\*\***

Spring has been a busy season for the Park and the Friends. We learned that approximately 18,000 visitors toured the Park during 2014! And, now that we have **Instagram** (which started in November), Carrie Todd, our talented park ranger, has added 1,000 photographs of happenings at the farm. Here is the website for Instagram: MKR Farm - it's that easy! Even our Facebook continues to grow! This is Great News for the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park, knowing that our Social Media efforts help bring NEW visitors to the park!

The Friends' annual Scrub Walk on March 7, 2015, was another SUCCESS! Our own Anne Pierce led twenty hikers from Gainesville, Cross Creek, Fernandina Beach, Salt Springs, Ocala and Orlando on a lively trek through the Ocala Forest to places that Rawlings described in *The Yearling* (see photos page 6).

On March 27-28<sup>th</sup> the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Conference was held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL. I really enjoyed the conference. There was a good turnout with interesting speakers, good food, nice accommodations at the lovely Terrace Hotel, and a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's unique buildings on campus.

And here is an exciting announcement: A new rose has been named after Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. It's red, has five petals and it's beautiful! More details in our October newsletter!

You will want to SAVE THE DATE for our upcoming summer event on **June 12, A FUN-RAISER THAT CAN'T BE MISSED!!!** The Friends will host the "Invasion of Privacy" PREVIEW PARTY at the Matheson Museum that Friday evening, 6-8 P.M. PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS STAR-STUDED EVENT!!



*You Are Invited to Attend the Friends of the Farm Annual Meeting  
Saturday, May 9, 2015*

*11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Island Grove Fire Station*

*Catered Lunch*

*(\$5.00 for members - \$12.50 for non-members)*

- *Installation of 2015-2016 Officers*
- *Program: Upcoming event, June 12, 2015 – "Invasion of Privacy" (Sneak preview)  
By Murray Lawrie, Friends of MKR Board Member*
- *Power Point Presentation – Photographs of Friends of MKR Happenings 2014-2015*
- *Chance Drawings for copy of book, "Invasion of Privacy" or jar of homemade marmalade*

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *Officers: 2014-2015*

President: Elaine Carson Spencer  
 Vice President: Neal Spencer  
 Treasurer: Anne Pierce  
 Secretary: Barbara Wingo

### *CSO Board of Directors*

Mickey Angell  
 Dan Anson  
 Dan Cantliffe  
 Murray Laurie  
 Mary Anne Morgan  
 Anne Pierce  
 Neal and Elaine Spencer  
 Jim Stephens  
 Florence Turcotte  
 Barbara Wingo

### *Resource Advisory Members*

Sheila Barnes  
 Roy Hunt  
 Michaelyn Luttge  
 Kay Williams

### *Newsletter Editor*

Elaine Carson Spencer



## A Bounty of Babies Carrie Todd, Park Ranger

In the documentation we have from when Marjorie purchased her farm at Cross Creek, we know that the farm came with “150 chickens, coops in good shape.” Now, we don’t keep anywhere near that many these days. But, after the bobcat buffet of last spring and summer, as well as the disappearances of a few ducks, our poultry population was at a record low: 2 female ducks, 5 hens and 1 rooster. We thought one of our female ducks might be setting, and bolster our populations. But, she was distraught when the yellow rat snakes made quick work of her 13 eggs.



So, in the next few weeks the farm will be welcoming 10 ducklings and 25 chicks! This is all thanks to the Friends generously offering to purchase the chicks for us from Murray McMurray Hatchery, the best in the country and one that carries heritage breeds. We will welcome Mallard Ducks and several varieties of chickens chosen both because they are breeds Marjorie could have owned and for their laying and setting abilities. Buff Orpingtons and Buff Rocks are well known, very friendly layers and setters. Black Minorcans and Dominiques (or Dominickers as they are often called down here) would have been very popular among farmers in Marjorie’s day. Hopefully these will bolster our populations, but we may have to be very careful to collect the eggs from our setters if we want to keep the population reasonable. We don’t need 150 chickens!

Resident Volunteer Melissa Protomastro has offered to “mother” the baby chicks through their early days. Her husband, Bob, has been diligently securing the pens to make them snake-proof. Volunteer Ariel Hilker is thrilled to help us tend the older chicks after she is on summer break from school. I hope you all will stop by and see the newest additions to our farm family



Zora Neale Hurston

## Special Tenant House Tours Saturdays, May 30, June 27 and July 25, 2015

The park staff at MKRawlings Historic State Park will be offering a rare opportunity for special tours and interpretation of the tenant house and its importance in the life of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings on her farm. Please plan to join us on one of the Saturdays listed above, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be presenting programs about Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and her relationship with some of its guests and residents such as her good friend and noted author, Zora Neale Hurston, Will and Martha Mickens, and her maid and author, Idella Parker. For more information, call the park office at (352) 466-3672.



Idella Parker

Instagram now has 1,000 photo’s - Check us out! Password: MKR Farm



**The "Invasion of Privacy," PREVIEW PARTY**

**Marjorie Rawlings vs. Zelma Cason:**

**Find Out Why the 1945 Cross Creek Trial Had Gainesville in an Uproar!!**

**A Benefit for the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.**

**\$35 per person**

**Friday, June 12, 2015, 6-8:00 p.m.**

**At the Matheson Museum**

**513 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL**

After winning a Pulitzer Prize for *The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings continued her success with the publication of *Cross Creek*, a description of her life and neighbors at the Creek. She was at the height of her career when she was sued by her good friend, Zelma Cason, in the first right of privacy case in Florida brought against an author. Cason's lawsuit pitted a person's right of privacy against an author's constitutional guarantee of free speech.

The lively play, "The Invasion of Privacy," based on the lawsuit and the 1945 trial held in Gainesville will be performed at Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall on June 18, 19, and 20. The Friends decided to host a PREVIEW PARTY at the Matheson Museum the week before the play to introduce the director, JUDITH CHAPMAN, and the cast of the play.



*Judith Chapman*

Come to the Friends' benefit PREVIEW PARTY to meet our charming, HONORED GUEST, soap-opera star and the director of "The Invasion of Privacy," JUDITH CHAPMAN, and other members of the cast. They will tantalize us with details about the fascinating cast of characters in the "Invasion of Privacy" that includes Rawlings and Cason; Kate Walton, one of the first female attorneys in Florida, who represented Cason; and Sigsbee Scruggs, the cagey attorney who represented Rawlings. The lawsuit became an international spectacle and a personal struggle between the two attorneys that had Gainesville in an uproar during the five days of the trial in 1945.

For more information about this benefit, please contact:

Elaine C. Spencer, Board President Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Farm, Inc.

Email: [elainespencer@gmail.com](mailto:elainespencer@gmail.com) Phone: (352) 283-0483

\* \* \* \* \*

☞

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Order for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$35 each for a total of \_\$\_\_\_\_\_. Reservations will be held at the door starting 6-8pm on Friday, June 12, 2015. When you arrive, you will be checked in at the door. No ticket is necessary. *Please postmark reservation orders before June 7.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc. in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to the **Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.,**  
You will receive an email acknowledgement of the receipt of your check.

Mail this form with your check to: Friends of the MKR Farm, Inc.  
PO Box 337  
Micanopy, FL 32667



**“Invasion of Privacy” Play Performance**  
**Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall**  
**June 18-20, 2015**  
**Dramatizing Famous M. K. Rawlings Trial**

Daytime television star Judith Chapman—who visited Santa Fe College in 2013 to teach and star in “Vivien”—returns to Gainesville in 2015 as part of the Santa Fe College Master Artist Series to direct “Invasion of Privacy,” an award-winning play by Larry Parr that dramatizes the famous Zelma Cason-Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings lawsuit and trial that took place in Alachua County. The play will run Thursday-Saturday, June 18-20, 2015, in the Fine Arts Hall at the Northwest Campus, 3000 NW 83 Street, Gainesville.

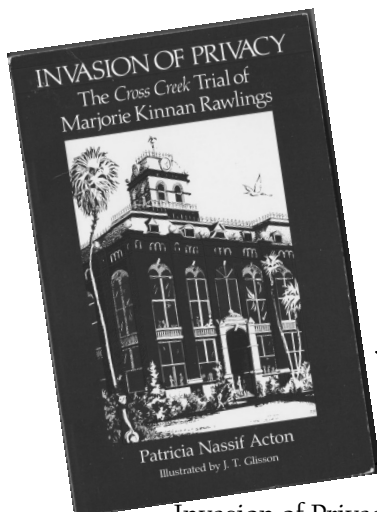
“Invasion of Privacy” has won awards in New York City; Ashland, Oregon; and Palm Springs, California. Playwright Larry Parr received a Florida Individual Artist’s Fellowship for his work on the script and Director Judith Chapman won Outstanding Director of a Drama-Professional in the 2014 Desert Theatre League Awards in Palm Springs.

Eve Curtis of the “Sun Herald” has called the play “a creative treasure” and a “riveting story.” Jean Reed of the “Pelican Press” says “Intensely interesting, sharply directed and performed, ‘Invasion of Privacy’ is a winner.” Jay Handelman of the “Sarasota Herald Tribune” observes, “Parr has a flair for sassy humor and for focusing his story on the main issues.”

The Master Artist Series is sponsored in part by the SF College Fine Arts Department, the SF College Foundation and Arts Patron program, and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The June 18 performance is sponsored in part by The Village Retirement Community.

For more information, call Cultural Programs Coordinator Kathryn Lehman at 352-395-5355 or Fine Arts Department Chairperson Alora Haynes at 352-395-5296. Tickets for the performance are \$15 for adult orchestra and mezzanine seats; \$12 for adult balcony seats; \$9 for seniors, children, and University of Florida students and faculty; and \$9 for faculty, staff and students of Santa Fe College.

For ticket information, call the Box Office at 352-395-4181.  
 Tickets may be purchased on line at: <http://www.sfcollege.edu/finearts/>



Invasion of Privacy  
 The Cross Creek Trial  
 of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings  
 By Patricia Nassif Acton

## Chance Drawings

- Annual Board Meeting  
-May 9th-
- Play Preview Party  
- June 12th-
- “Invasion of Privacy” Play Performances  
-June 18th, 19th and 20th-

2 prizes at each Drawing

Suggested Donation:  
 \$5/ea.  
 5 for \$20.



One Jar Homemade Orange Marmalade using  
 oranges from the grove at the home of  
 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings!

**Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' Experience of World War II**  
 by Valerie Rivers, Park Manager.

Program on WWII D-Day, June 6, 2015, 12Noon  
 Program is FREE with park admission

Rawlings experienced, as did most Americans at the time, the stress of the changes in daily life and the worry over loved ones somewhere in danger overseas. Park Manager Valerie Rivers will present a program at 12 noon on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> about how these experiences affected her life and her writing. In 1942 she wrote her editor, Maxwell Perkins, about her second home on Crescent Beach, "This part of the coast has become practically a military zone, and now passes are necessary to use the ocean road that leads to the cottage. I have black-out shades, and it is rather creepy alone here at night, with no traffic on the beach or highway, convoys going by, bombers overhead, and the thought of the saboteurs who land on isolated beaches." Her husband volunteered as an ambulance driver in south east Asia. In early 1944, she wrote to Perkins that "Norton is in actual battle actions. He makes one five-hour trip a day alone, hauling wounded in his ambulance. I do not know where he is." The lack of specific information about one's individual loved ones was common during the war. Her books and letters also reflect an increasing understanding of the impact of this war. June 6<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of D-day for the invasion of Normandy and it will also be part of the program.



**LIFETIME MEMBERS**

- Ginny and Gunter Arndt
- Danny and Judy Baker
- Sheila Barnes
- Catherine Beazley
- Diane E. Beck
- Roger and Linda Blackburn
- Sybil Ann Brennan
- Mary W. Bridgman
- Dan Cantliffe
- Ginger Carter
- Norma Davis
- Patricia Ann Davis
- Sheila Dickison
- John and Balinda Ferree
- Sue Gaintner
- Robert E. Haines
- J. C. Harrell
- Judith Harris
- Candace Henderson
- John and Phyllis Holmgren
- Roy Hunt
- Deanne Clark & William H. Jeter, Jr.
- Brenda Keith
- Shirley Kiser
- Richard Knellinger, P.A.
- Angel Kwolek-Folland
- Murray Laurie
- Shirley Lucas
- Michaelyn Luttge
- Colleen, Frank and Lana Mahoney
- Janet Matthews
- Ruth Maughan
- Philip S. May, Jr.
- Judith McFadden and Ilene Nathanson
- Robert D. McReynolds
- Eleanor and Andy Merritt
- Elinor N. Midgette
- W.L. Miller
- James R. Nici
- Rebecca Nullier
- Alan Palmer
- Spence Perry
- John Henry & Margaret Anne Pierce
- Liz Pooley
- Dana Preu
- A.L. Rhinehart
- Art & Edda Ross
- Shirley and Pierre Thompson
- M. List Underwood, Jr.
- Pamela Lydick Whiting
- Colleen Whitlock

**2015 Friends of MKR Calendar**

- Saturday, May 9, 2015 Annual Membership meeting for the Friends of MKR Farm Everyone welcome!
- Saturdays, May 30, June 27 and July 25 - from 10 am to 4 pm  
 Tenant house will be opened for visitation. An Interpreter will share some stories about MKR and tenant house residents.
- Saturday, June 6, 2015 WWII D-Day Program, 12Noon
- Friday, June 12, 2015 Benefit for Friends of MKR - "Invasion of Privacy" Preview Party, 6-8:00 p.m. Matheson Museum (see page 3 to make your reservation today!)
- Thursday - Saturday June 18-20, 2015 "Invasion of Privacy" Play Performance, 7:30 p.m. Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall For tickets call Box Office at 352-392-4181
- Tuesday, July 14, 2015 Friends of MKR Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Cross Creek Fire Station
- Saturday, August 8, 2015 Annual MKR Birthday Party, 11-1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome!
- August/September, 2015 Annual MKR Farm cleaning and maintenance No House tours, but Park is open
- October 1, 2015 MKRHSP House re-opens for tours.

**Corporate Members**

- Alachua Conservation Trust
- Blue Highway Restaurant
- Horseless Carriage Club of America
- Mansbridge Editing & Transcription



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Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.  
P.O. Box 337  
Micanopy, FL 32667-0337

Website: [www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org](http://www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org)  
Instagram: @MKRFarm  
Facebook

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?  
Please check your address label. The date that you see on the label is the date your dues are due. If your membership is current, we thank you!

Pics from Annual Scrub Trip, March 7, 2015



<i>Membership Information</i>					
Effective July 1, 2014 new membership dues are as follows					
Type	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	Lifetime
<b>Individual</b>	\$25	\$70	\$105	\$200	\$ 450
<b>Family</b>	\$30	\$85	\$130	\$250	\$ 550
<b>Educational</b>	\$30	\$85	\$130	\$250	\$ 550
<b>Corporate</b>	\$55	\$155	\$255	\$500	\$1,000

Please circle type of membership and send with your check to:  
**Friends of MKRawlings Farm, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 337**  
**Micanopy, FL 32667-0337**

Membership in the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

We invite you to join or renew your membership in the Citizen Support Organization (CSO) for the MKR Historic State Park. Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc., is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 (toll-free within Florida). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_