



News from the Creek

Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Visit our website at: www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

Spring Quarterly 2021

Volume 24 Number 2

President's Message

by Barbara Wingo

Looking Forward

Looking Back



Spring is a time of new beginnings. I am sure that we all hope the pandemic is nearly at an end and that our new beginning will be returning to something resembling “normal”.

Rawlings painted vivid word pictures of the new beginnings of spring in her many works. There are many in *The Yearling*:

March came in with a cool and sunny splendor. The yellow jessamine bloomed late and covered the fences and filled the clearing with its sweetness. The peach trees blossomed, and the wild plums. The redbirds sang all day, and when they had done with their song in the evening, the mocking birds continued.

Speaking of *The Yearling*, it seems just yesterday that we celebrated the 75th anniversary of its publication. And now 2021 represents the 75th anniversary of the release of the motion picture based on the novel by Rawlings and largely filmed in Florida. Please look forward to programming concerning the making of *The Yearling* in the coming months.

In the meantime, to learn more about the making of *The Yearling* and to celebrate this anniversary, you may want to consult the autobiography written by Claude Jarman, Jr.: *My Life and the Final Days of Hollywood*. Jarman played Jody in the motion picture, and his reminiscences of the Florida environment (erroneously referred to by the Hollywood movie-makers as the Everglades), the deer, as well as actor Gregory Peck and director Clarence Brown are compelling.

As Jarman noted:

When I look back on it, I realize that nothing else in my life after *The Yearling* experience ever came close to being that difficult. When we started shooting, I was ten. When the picture was released, I was twelve. . . . I had gone from a movie-watching kid in Tennessee to a movie star in Hollywood. How did it happen? I basically *was* Jody. I was placed in the proper setting, guided by a master director, and assisted by accomplished talent, and fortunately for everyone, I responded accordingly. I lived the part.

To continue with the theme of movies and “filming” at the park, in March I was privileged to work with Donna Green-Townsend (our director, and supplier of many visual images as well as a Friends board member), Scott Spaulding and Friends board member Florence Turcotte on a segment about the Friends in WUFT’s Greater Good series, which focuses on local charitable organizations. The “shoot” was a lot of fun, and the product very worthwhile. We hope you have seen the video (on our Facebook page and our website) and will share it with your friends and acquaintances. For more information on this project, please see the article on page 3 of this newsletter.

Our Volunteer Spotlight article in this newsletter (on page 4) is a very special one. On March 31 Anne Pierce, our indefatigable Friends volunteer, board member and long-time treasurer, received the statewide 2020 Adult Volunteer of the Year Award for Administration from the Florida Park Service. She also won an award for her 20 years of service to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. Congratulations, Anne!

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers 2021

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Vice President: Carrie Todd
Secretary: Tom Price
Treasurer: Anne Pierce

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Donna Green-Townsend
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Park Manager’s Message
by Park Manager Scott Spaulding



Greetings Everyone:

Spring is here and as Marjorie wrote in *Cross Creek*, Chapter 18 - Spring at the Creek: **Spring is as definite and as exciting as in Greenland. We have not had snow behind us, but we have had an un-growing period, as have they, and life now stirs and sap rises and the creatures mate and the snakes come out of their winter's lethargy. Because it is familiar and beloved, we watch every gradation. It is dear to us because knowledge of it is necessary to recognize its variations. There is no one sign of spring, but several spontaneous burstings.**



For us, the first sign of spring is the bursting of blossoms on the citrus trees, gone now, but replaced by tiny green oranges. They are so small they are hardly noticeable, but they will grow, remaining green throughout the summer, which always suggests the question from visitors “are those limes?” To which we reply no, those are immature oranges. Our hard work of fertilizing, trimming, composting and applying micronutrients is paying off as the trees continue to look better and better.

Speaking of citrus trees, the Friends are going to fund the replacement of 15 trees lost to disease over the past few years. The varieties of oranges will include Pineapple, Hamlin and Parson Brown along with Duncan Grapefruit. We are grateful for this and look forward to getting the stumps removed and new trees in the ground.

During recent research of old photographs, we noticed that Marjorie once had wooden roll-up shades on her front porch. Through additional research we were able to find a company that still produces them. With funding from the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources in Tallahassee we were able to purchase custom made roll-up shades. This will help tremendously by keeping direct sunlight off the porch in the morning and help keep rain from blowing directly in, which will further protect Marjorie’s writing table and other furniture on the porch. In addition to that, they sure look like they belong there...which they do!



Speaking of improvements, and due to a generous donation, we will soon be getting a new entrance kiosk near the front gate. It will be complete with an updated interpretive panel and larger display cabinet where we can share current Park and Friends information. The kiosk will be built in-house by volunteers, and the interpretive panel will be professionally designed and built. We can’t wait to complete this much needed improvement.

Well, if you haven’t been out to the farm for a while, now is the time to visit. It is still on the cooler side and the greenery is looking great, especially in the garden, which has had a lot of tender loving care. Keep in mind that house tours are Thursday through Sunday at 11am and 1, 2 and 3pm. Tours are limited to 20 with 10 inside the house at a time. Facial coverings are required inside the house. We are also taking reservations for groups up to 20 on non-tour days and before scheduled tours begin on tour days. So keep us in mind if you have a group that is looking for something fun and educational to do.

In closing I just want to add that although I don’t say it often enough, we couldn’t do all that we do without our Wonderful Volunteers and the Devoted Friends of The Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc. Along those lines, it was so nice to see our very own Anne Pierce receive the Volunteer of The Year award for 2020. Anne does an amazing job as treasurer and we are so glad to have her with us. She was also recognized for 20 years of dedicated service!

Until next time, we wish you well and hope to see you at the farm one day soon.

(President's Message Continued from page 1)

We are all anxious to return to conducting special activities at the park and elsewhere in support of the park. A resurgence of visitors at the park recently shows that interest in the farm and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings has not flagged. We hope to have news on programs in our next newsletter – and on our website and Facebook page. We have so much to celebrate --the new trail markers (Catch a glimpse of them in the WUFT video), the deferred 50th anniversary of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park, *The Yearling* motion picture – as well as our regular park events, such as Marjorie's birthday party and the park's holiday party.

As always, please stay safe and stay well.

WUFT Greater Good Video Shoot



On March 10th a TV crew from WUFT interviewed and recorded video for a segment about the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm organization for its weekly Greater Good program. The program focuses on the goals and needs of not-for-profit organizations in the North Central Florida area. The feature included interviews with Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Park Manager Scott Spaulding, MKR Friends of the Farm President Barbara Wingo and Friends board member Florence Turcotte, Associate University Librarian at the Smathers Library at the University of Florida. The feature aired on WUFT-TV on Friday, March 26th at 8:30 p.m. You can view the video on either our website, marjoriekinnanrawlings.org, or see it on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMKRFarm>.



Volunteer Spotlight

Anne Pierce



Congratulations to Anne Pierce, winner of the Florida Park Service statewide 2020 Adult Volunteer of the Year award as well as a 20-year volunteer award! These awards are more than well-deserved.

Anne is a native of North Carolina with an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina – Charlotte in mathematics education. She has graduate degrees from the University of Florida in mathematics education with minors in mathematics and statistics as well as a computer science graduate degree from the University of South Carolina – Columbia. She taught math in grades 8-12, at Santa Fe College and Valdosta State College before teaching for 15 years at Georgia Southern University in the area of computer science. Also noteworthy was Anne's teaching math in a teacher's college in Peru as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Anne began volunteering at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park over twenty years ago. She became a member of the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm in 1998 and a board member in 2000. She has held various positions and worked on numerous projects during her many years as a volunteer with the Friends.

Indeed, Anne's accomplishments as a Friends volunteer are too numerous to mention. These are highlights of her service. First and foremost, she has held her current position of treasurer since 2004. She is an exemplary treasurer, a model for any treasurer of a not-for-profit charitable organization.

Early in her service as a board member, Anne began developing a database to be used at the park. In 2004 she began a mission to research and fund the conservation of over 30 artworks, framed photographs and mirrors displayed in the historic farmhouse, which project was completed in 2005.

More recent accomplishments include her extensive work on both the 75th Anniversary of *The Yearling*, the 75th Anniversary of *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery*, and assistance with the documentary entitled *Here is Home: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Cross Creek*. She has given numerous original presentations and conducted many annual Srub Walks. She is also a frequent contributor to this newsletter as well as being an exemplary board member.

Park Manager Scott Spaulding has stated:

I became the Park Manager at MKRHSP in June of 2018. Before the end of the month, Anne had already reached out by phone and in person to welcome me. Right from the start I realized her deep passion for all things Marjorie. The information she shared right from the beginning was so helpful that I began keeping notes that I often reflect on. To say that I learn something new from Anne every time we meet is a vast understatement . . . Her accomplishments are timeless and are seen every time someone visits the farmhouse and marvels at the treasures she worked to have restored some 15 years ago, and every time a *Here is Home* DVD is sold, and every time she reads the treasurer's report.



Anne is a wonderful volunteer in so many ways. Again, congratulations for awards so richly deserved.



Summary of Friends 2020 Finances by Anne Pierce, Treasurer

In a year of limited house tours and smaller numbers of visitors to the Farm, our major sources of income for 2020 were as follows: Membership Dues, \$ 3,797; Contributions, \$11,882 from 18 donors and the donation box at the Farm; Sales (books, notes, DVDs), \$ 1,370. We have a good amount of inventory which was purchased before the coronavirus closing, so we are well positioned to have good profits from Sales in 2021 as visitor numbers increase. DVDs may be ordered by mail, but other sales are only at the Farm.

Our purpose is to assist the Marjorie Kinnan Historic State Park in many ways. During 2020, our programming was limited; therefore, expenditures for on-site programs, cooking demonstrations, etc. ended in March. Support of the Park continued with some major purchases. Major expenses were as follows: a utility golf cart, \$5,000; trail signs, \$2,028; interpretation support (costumes, chickens, cat, etc.), \$707; garden and citrus, \$ 638; programming, \$289; newsletter & web site, \$2,508.

As a result of our visitors and members, the organization showed a net gain in assets for 2020. The Friends sincerely thank those who stepped forward to help us this year through their memberships, purchases from the Friends, and generous contributions. The support made it possible to continue to meet needs at the Farm and limited programming during 2020.

DVDs available:

Life and Times in Cross Creek: Memories and Reflections and Here is Home: MKR and Cross Creek

Life and Times in Cross Creek: Memories and Reflections produced by Donna Green-Townsend. This hour long presentation features unique historic video, audio and photos of friends and neighbors of Rawlings. The DVD is available to purchase by mail for \$19.00.

Here is Home: MKR and Cross Creek, a short documentary produced by Sonya Doctorian. This 40 minute presentation is a documentary of the life and legacy of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. This DVD is available to purchase by mail for \$24.00.

Please make your check payable to Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm and mail to PO Box 337, Micanopy, FL 32667-0337. Postage and handling are included in the price.

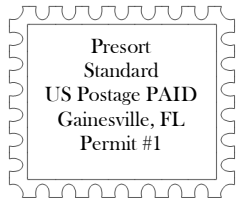


Like us on Facebook at The Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm. Our Facebook page shares photos, videos and events related to the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Corporate Members
 Blackadder Brewers (Life)
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Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.
 P.O. Box 337
 Micanopy, FL 32667-0337

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!



Be sure to visit us at marjoriekinnanrawlings.org Or floridastateparks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings



Summer Garden Sprouting Up



Citrus Blooms

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

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

Membership in the Friends of the 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.

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