



News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Volume 17 Number 1

Visit our website at: www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

Fall Quarterly 2013

President's Message

Happenings from the Board of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm

by Mary Anne Morgan

It's fall again at the Creek! The weather still feels like summer, but every now and then I feel or hear something that lets me know the season is changing. From Labor Day to Christmas, fall has all the best holidays and fun events. Football games, fall festivals, cook outs, Halloween and Thanksgiving are opportunities to gather with family and friends, eat good food and be thankful for all our blessings.

Be sure to look at the calendar of events in this edition of the newsletter. As The Year of *The Yearling* continues there are many activities to choose from. But why choose? Come to all of them. The events held to date have been well received. It has been gratifying to see other organizations hosting events or educational opportunities to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Yearling* as well. It is uplifting to realize how many lives *The Yearling* has touched over the generations since its initial publication. I plan on reading it to my grandchildren and then encouraging them to read it on their own as they grow older.

The Cross Creek Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, November 23rd. The event will be held at the Park (boat ramp) next to the MKR Farm. The Friends will have a table. The Festival always features arts/crafts, good food, and entertainment. Visit the Farm while you are there!

Our next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 6:30 pm at the Cross Creek Fire House. You do not have to be a member to attend. Have a wonderful fall!

UPCOMING EVENT - OCTOBER 12TH - You won't want to miss this!

"PLANTS and SEASONS OF *THE YEARLING* PRESENTATION and WALKABOUT"

Join us at the Matheson Museum on **Saturday, October 12 2013**, at 10:00am for a presentation on the plants and seasons of *The Yearling*.

A presentation will be made by Dr. Mark V. Barrow, retired cardiologist, and one of the founders of the Matheson Museum. See the botanical gardens at the Matheson Museum transform into a medicine cabinet while you learn about the primitive uses of native plants. This event is a part of "The Year of The Yearling," a celebration of the literary classic by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The Matheson Museum is located at 513 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605. This event is **FREE** and Open to the Public. For more information, please call 352-378-2280 or email: info@mathesonmuseum.org.



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CSO Board of Directors

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Elaine Carson Spencer

A Rare Find Donated on Rawlings Birthday

By Park Manager, Valerie Rivers

On Saturday, August 3rd, Clair Koshar, a board member of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society, member of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm and long-time advocate of support for the park, assisted her friends Dale and Dick Rhoades in their donation of three historic pewter pieces. The Rhoades flew in from Alabama to make their donation at a celebration of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's 117th birthday (which is actually August 8th, but usually celebrated the first weekend in August to reduce its impact of the beginning of the two month house maintenance period). Ms. Koshar researched the history of the pewter coffee pot, water pitcher and waiter (or server) and they are of the Rawlings time period and believed to have been owned by Rawlings. Ms. Koshar traced word of mouth contacts from an antique dealer to a yard sale in the Cross Creek area soon after Rawlings' death. Additionally an historic photo of Rawlings with a similar set was located.



The photograph shows Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm CSO President Mary Anne Morgan (on the right) who coordinated the event, with Dale and Dick Rhoades who are about to cut the cake for Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's birthday. Volunteers, members of both the Friends and Society, and neighbors attended.

Public Lands Day

On Saturday September 28th, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection sponsored a Public Lands Day asking for volunteers to come help in any one of our lovely parks. We had some mighty devoted Volunteers come to work considering the steady, although mostly soft, rain.



Emma Rivers Baird and Murray Laurie

(Continued on page 4)

Farm Report—Putting the House to Bed

By Ranger Sheila Barnes

It's likely that you know why it is important for us to close the Rawlings House every August and September. For those who aren't aware of what we do during these months, here is an explanation.

While the house is a museum, it is also a prime example of living history. We use the woodstove for demonstration cooking, host thousands of visitors per year, and work the garden and citrus grove. Nearly every person who visits is interested in talking to a staff member, and taking the tour.

This makes us very busy from October through July, so we need the two months to take care of the house, just as any home owner would. Paint peels, wood rots, and mildew grows. The collection of MKR furnishings and artwork suffer from the humidity. Love bugs find their way inside and their dead bodies collect behind bureaus and under beds. Mice come into the back pantry, while silver fish find the books. Birds come in through the cracks, and have to be chased out, after leaving their droppings hither and yon. The chimneys gather soot, while sand accumulates under the rugs.



(Continued on page 3)

A Gigantic Thank You to our departing Editor; A Huge Welcome to our new Editor

By Park Manager, Valerie Rivers



Ranger Sheila with her beloved dog Sugar

Park Ranger Sheila Barnes has taken the lead in getting out the Friends' newsletter several times over the years. This past stint has been quite long and she is happily turning those responsibilities over to Elaine Spencer with this issue.

Sheila Barnes' excellent writing skills and eye for details has made reading the newsletter interesting and easy. It is not an easy task to coordinate the writers and their information, edit for accuracy, space and focus; and then ensure that the layout artist, Gail Rowley, gets all the material and photographs she needs to complete the job. Sheila was able to be gracious with her writers and yet let her perfectionism loose in completing a balanced and appealing newsletter. She also writes superb articles. Her farmyard vignettes are especially enjoyable as she reveals the daily goings and comings of ducks and chickens and

the people who love to watch them. Her introductions to the new volunteers and staff have been wonderful - she could really let us know who each person was. She will be missed as our editor - but we're hoping she will continue to write!

Elaine Spencer has taken over as editor from Ranger Barnes and was already revealed her steadfastness in her emails to the writers and reminders to us all. She knows she has big shoes to fill, but with her steady cheerfulness and clear mission understanding, she will make sure we all can keep up with the goings-on here at Cross Creek.

(Farm Report, continued from page 2)

Curtains hang limp with a years' worth of dust coming in from the road or shot from the lawnmower. Floors and rugs are dirty from 10 months of constant traffic through the house.

During our down time, each and every piece of furniture is cleaned and inspected for damage or decay, and are logged in our conservation records. The original artwork is carefully evaluated. The walls are bleached and the floors mopped. The windows get cleaned, inside and out. Many surfaces need fresh paint. The steps onto the front porch need scraped, sanded, primed and top coated every single year. The chimneys get cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. And then there is the laundry. Curtains, bed clothes, kitchen towels, period doilies, and table linens are washed and ironed. And the list goes on.

I tell visitors that we work harder when we are closed than we do while open. As I write this, we are less than a week away from opening for the season, with still much to do. But because we are blessed with an extraordinarily devoted staff, we will be ready, willing and able to open the house to tours for the season...October through July. All are welcome to come "home" for a visit!

LIFETIME MEMBERS

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

Website: www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

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!

2013-14 Calendar	
Tue, Oct 29	Friends Board Meeting, 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House
Sat, Nov 16	<i>The Yearling</i> Run & Scamper, 10:00am M.K. Rawlings Elementary School 3500 NE 15 th Street, Gainesville
Sat, Dec 14	Holiday Open House 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The MKR Farm
Tue, Jan 21	Friends Board Meeting, 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House
Wed, Jan 1	Walk in the Park, 10:00 am MKR Park
Sat, Jan 11	Marjorie's Garden, 10:00 am MKR Park

(Public Lands Day, continued from page 2)
As the rain became heavier, we retreated to the barn where we cleared around the exterior edges and underneath.

Pictured are (from left to right)
Emma Rivers Baird, Murray Laurie,
Michaelyn Luttge and Tracy Crook.



We love our volunteers!....
especially those who come out in
the pouring rain!



*A full calendar of The Year of The Yearling events can be located in our Spring 2013 Newsletter or on our website,
www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org*

<i>Membership Information</i>					
Type	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	Lifetime
Individual	\$20	\$55	\$90	\$175	\$ 400
Family	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$225	\$ 500
Educational	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$225	\$ 500
Corporate	\$50	\$145	\$240	\$475	\$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 _____

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