



News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Volume 17 Number 4

Visit our website at: www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

Summer Quarterly 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elaine Carson Spencer



The summer months kept the Friends of MKR Rawlings Farm, Inc. busy. Committees met and the 2014-15 budget was passed and approved, the calendar of events discussed and updated. The 2008 by-laws have been updated and reviewed to be voted on in January of 2015. Also, we expect to update and bring a new look for our website. The list goes on...

In July, the new Park Ranger, Carrie Todd began her position learning the ropes. You'll enjoy reading her article, "Happenings at the Park." She is full of enthusiasm and ideas. Please join us all in welcoming Carrie.

And, how can I not say a few words about Sheila Barnes' Retirement. The party was held at The Yearling Restaurant on July 31st. Many tears were shed and many happy memories shared. Sheila served 20 years as a park ranger and will be truly missed!

August brought the celebration of Marjorie's Birthday. She would have been 118 years old on August 8. We never know who will be there, but anyone and everyone was welcomed. The house was open for guided tours on Saturday, August 2. Fortuitously so, visitors arrived just in time for singing "Happy Birthday." (It's a grand occasion). That brings us up to the remainder of August and September when the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park was closed for maintenance; it's the annual "summer cleaning" of the Farm. Staff and volunteers worked diligently day in and day out to wash the walls, clean the floors, paint the rooms, clean the curtains and repair anything and everything needed, so the doors could open on October 1st.

As always, we are looking for new volunteers to become part of our family. There are many ways to help and get involved. My goal this year is to increase membership. We need you to sign-up a Friend today!

Hope to see you soon at Marjorie's home in Cross Creek, Florida. Happy Holidays!

Cracker Holiday Fest - November 22, 2014

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - MK Rawlings Historic State Park

Back by popular demand, Stefanie Samara Hamblen and friends from Hogtown HomeGrown will share a sampling of a delicious holiday meal like the ones prepared and cooked by many Cracker folks. In her own words:

"Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings collected some of her favorite foods in *Cross Creek Cookery* and it included many kinds of delicious local foods. In coordination with Hogtown HomeGrown, the Park will be presenting a Cracker Holiday Feast. Cracker cooking transcends any one particular time period - it is more the way of life created by those who live close to the land in the South. Drawing on the recollections and experiences of longtime residents of our area, including Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Myrtle Dudley, our

(Continued on page 4)

Win Homemade Goodies For Your Holiday Dinner!



Homemade Pies, Jams, Gift Certificates

Cracker Holiday Fest
Drawing of Chance Tickets
One Entry \$5 donation
Five Entries \$20 donation

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



December Annual Citrus Picking

“I invariably put off all the orange picking as long as possible. I have watched the fruit so long, from the first blossoms in February, through the summer months of the hard green balls, The oranges hang like lighted lanterns through the winter....” (*Cross Creek, Winter*)

*December 19th, 2014
9a.m. until done*

Sheila Barnes Retirement Dinner - Her Thanks to So Many

At her retirement dinner on July 31st, Sheila gave a wonderful thank you speech:



“Thank you for coming out tonight. I’m truly honored to be here among such fine folks. When I started writing what I wanted to say to you this evening, of course the obvious is to thank and acknowledge every single person who has ever been a part of my experience at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. This is not what you need or want to hear from me. You know what part you have played and what you have meant to me.

I finally realized what the core of the message I wanted to deliver is..and that is that it has less to do with the work of each individual, and everything to do with our shared love of a place. This led me to think about the theme that brings this particular collection of people together tonight, and I came to this conclusion:

It is that we share an appreciation of how the arts connect us. Be it visual arts, music, or the written word, we bond when a creative work touches a chord deep in our collective hearts. This, to me, is the true definition of any in any form, that it has the ability to reach across broad bridges to join us together in this world we share, despite our differences.

And Marjorie Rawlings wrote with that ability. She could turn a phrase or description into a laser beam that enters our brains; words that we immediately recognize as a truth. And when that tiny, but brilliant, seed of understanding hits the mark, we are all inspired, and lifted from the everyday business of living, to a heightened awareness of the human experience. And isn’t that why the work of artists so important in our culture and society? YES!

There is a passage from MKR’s *Cross Creek*, that over all these years still rings that bell for me. Allow me to steal her words to help me express my own feelings. “When I came to the Creek and knew the old grove and farmhouse at once as home, there was some terror, such as one feels in the first recognition of a human love, for the joining of person to place, as of person to person, is a commitment to shared sorrow, even as to shared joy.”

Who of us has not experienced this one way or another? I can tell you that during my time at the Rawlings Farm, I have felt the joys and sorrows in the way she describes. I realized early on that this was not going to be JUST a job, but a journey.

Again to quote Ms. Rawlings in my connection with this thought: (and I am paraphrasing). “I suppose there are a hundred other places where I might have found what I found at Cross Creek. George Sand wrote, in “La Mare au Diable”.

“Nature possesses the secret of happiness, and no one has been able to steal it from her. Happiness would be whenever the mind, the heart and the arm should work together beneath the eye of Providence, so that a holy harmony should exist between the magnificence of God and the rapture of the human soul”.

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Happenings at the Creek “Curiosity of the Chickens” By Ranger Carrie Todd



Carrie Todd



A chicken “selfie”

Since arriving at the Farm July 1st, I have been absorbing and learning and doing all manner of things. I didn’t realize, when I accepted the Park Ranger position at the Farm, how much fun I would have every morning coming to work – especially with the chickens. I knew I would love the house and its history; I already loved Marjorie and her writings, but I was curious about how good a “farmer” I would turn out to be.

Each morning, the chickens or “reds” as we call the young Rhode Island Red hens, greet me with clucks and squawks, while “Slick,” our incredibly handsome Maran rooster, only crows if I don’t let them out for the day. The young ladies are very people friendly and, when they are out, will run up to guests and staff alike, hoping for some extra corn. I like to think they are attracted to me or the other staff more, but I saw one letting several visitors pet her. They do, however, seem to prefer to lie in the bushes near the house, close to where we have all been working so hard to get the house ready for October. The plumbago has been a favorite in recent weeks, as have the lilies by the garden fence.

One of the hens even likes to visit us in the house, usually on our lunch break. She will stand at a door where she sees someone, often on the south porch. She clucks softly and pecks a little until someone lets her in for a short visit. However, once she comes in, it is hard to get her out. We also had to make the rule that whoever lets her in has to make sure to clean up. Perhaps we should look into how to housebreak a chicken.

At least we don’t have a hen that crows. In *Cross Creek*, Marjorie describes some of the superstitions of Martha Mickens; one of which is a crowing hen is very bad luck, especially during this time of year as we wait for Fall to set in and the weather to change. If you have a crowing hen during this time, your best bet is a nice treat of fried chicken or jellied chicken (Marjorie’s preference I think). (*Cross Creek*, “Fall”)

The staff and I have continually laughed at the funny antics and curious nature of the “Reds.” Whether it’s trying to perch on the barn doors, to roost in the orange trees (and getting stuck) or even trying to brave the wild outdoors for the night, there’s never a dull moment at “The Creek.”



Always opportunists, one of the Reds decides to get out of the summer heat and hangs out on the back porch with docent Rick Mulligan.

(Holiday Fest...Continued from page 1)



cooks will recreate a simple but delicious holiday feast using items available locally. Thanksgiving was often a busy time for locals, with the citrus harvest well underway, so Christmas became the holiday when family could gather and a day off was enjoyed. True Crackers would make use of "woods goods" (*An Old Florida Cracker Christmas*, Ben Wheeler) and the vegetables grown in their gardens. The menu will include not only the meat which would have graced the table, but also the side dishes common to the area.

Program will include information, demonstrations and samples.

Initial food preparation will begin on the old wood-burning stove in the historic house. Most of the hourly tours before the program will see some of the work in progress. The program will be held outside the Rawlings home at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, November 22 and is included in the cost of admission to the park, \$3 per carload. A visitor can also enjoy the farmyard, barn, garden, trails and explore the historic home from the outside.

The Friends of the Farm will be hosting a drawing for Homemade Pies , Jams and Gift Certificates.

(Sheila Barnes, Continued from page 2)

MKR goes on to add:

“All life is a balance, (when it is not a battle), between the forces of creation and the forces of destruction.....and here (at the Creek) we know only that we are impelled to fight on the side of the creative forces...and that a sense of well being sweeps over us when we have assisted life rather than destroyed it...

Yet when a wave of love takes over a human being, love of another human being, love of nature, such an exaltation takes him that knows he has put his finger on the pulse of the great secret...and the great answer.

We know above all that work must be beloved. We know that our relations with one another, the disagreements are unimportant...and the union, VITAL...”

I can sincerely say that I have found these things to be true in my work at Rawlings’ beloved farm. I suspect each of you understands this, so I want to thank YOU for being part of the vital union that keeps her special place on the side of creation.

As for me, well...no doubt you are wondering what is next on my agenda. Honestly, I don’t yet for sure. But like a book, my life is still being written.

My work at Rawlings has encompassed one third of my life...not just a few chapters. Tonight marks the end of this part of my book. I don’t know how many more parts of my life are left to be written, but to date, this third of my story has encompassed some of the richest and most satisfying parts of it.

In conclusion, it is not you who should be acknowledging me this evening, but I who should be thanking you for being such an enormous part of my journey.



(from left to right), Park Manager Valerie Rivers, retiring Ranger Sheila Barnes and incoming Ranger, Carrie Todd

Sheila Barnes
July 31, 2014, Retirement Speech



2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park
www.floridastateparks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings/events.cfm

Saturday, November 22, 2014	Cracker Holiday Fest - 2:30p.m.-5:00 p.m. Food Demonstration & Sampling - MK Rawlings Park, Barn and house
Saturday, December 13, 2014	Annual Holiday Party, 10:00 a.m. - 12Noon MK Rawlings Park - Goodies and Refreshments served - Friends invited!
Friday, December 19, 2014	Annual Citrus Picking - 9:00 a.m. until done
January, 2015	Happy New Year
Thursday, January 1, 2015	Annual Walk in the Park, 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 27, 2015	Friends Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, CC Fire House
Saturday, March 7, 2015	Annual Hike - The Yearling Trail, 8:00 a.m.-1PM Guided Tour.
Tuesday April 7, 2015	Friends Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. CC Fire House
Saturday, May 9, 2015	Annual MKR Meeting, Island Grove FH, 11-1p.m.
June 18-20, 2015	“Invasion of Privacy” Play about MKR 1943 Trial
Tuesday, July 14, 2015	Friends Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. CC Fire House
Saturday, August 8, 2015	MKR Birthday Party, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

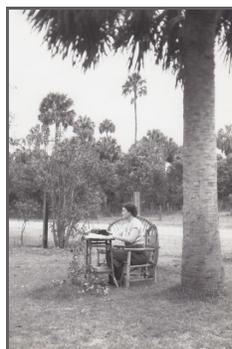
“Invasion of Privacy” Performance

June 18-20, 2015, Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall

A performance of “Invasion of Privacy” will be presented at Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall in cooperation with the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm and the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society.

Judith Chapman directs “Invasion of Privacy”, a play about Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings by Larry Parr that focuses on a 1943 case against Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

More details in next newsletter.



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
- Michelyn 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

Corporate Members

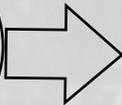
- Alachua Conservation Trust
- Blue Highway Restaurant
- Horseless Carriage Club of America
- Mansbridge Editing & Transcription



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!




Don't Miss These Events! Mark Your Calendar!



Holiday Fest - Saturday November 22 , 2:30p.m. - 5p.m.

Annual Holiday Party - Saturday, December 13th, 2014
 10a.m. to 12noon



<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 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 _____