



News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm,

Volume 21 Number 1

Winter Quarterly 2018

President's Message

By Barbara Wingo



Happy 2018 to all! What a wonderful year 2017 was – celebrating *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery* – but we look forward to 2018 as well. It will be a year to regroup and concentrate on revitalizing the farm – and, of course, we will continue to have unique events.

Let me thank everyone who attended the annual meeting of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Park, Inc. We had a chance to give special thanks to the committee that planned and carried out the 2017 events as well as to remember those events themselves. Thanks to Donna Green-Townsend we had a recorded montage of the year to view.

In the last quarter of 2017 we had several events, which are highlighted in this issue. Jim Stephens' Antioch Cemetery tour and his play "The Pound Party" were, indeed, notable.

Looking forward, we have the return of Anne Pierce's "Scrub Walk" as well as a talk by Carol Fiddia Laxton. Please turn to page two of this newsletter for further details.

"Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and St. Augustine," which was postponed due to Hurricane Irma has been rescheduled for February 1, 2018, at 6 p.m., at the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine. As I noted in my last column, the years that followed Marjorie's purchase of a home in Crescent Beach and her marriage to Norton Baskin were the years of writing *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery*, the Zelma Cason lawsuit, World War II, and her friendship with Zora Neale Hurston.

I am pleased to announce that the Friends have received a grant from the Florida Humanities Council to produce three products that will be of great value in the years to come: oral history videos of persons who knew Rawlings in their youth; a virtual tour of the house at Cross Creek; and a short five-minute documentary. Look for the announcement of a celebration event that will occur upon the completion of this project.

And don't forget that we have a Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' birthday party each year – so be looking for details on that. Also we will be repeating Jim Stephens' play later this year.

Finally, I want to reiterate my thanks to the volunteers who made possible the events of 2017. And for the coming year let us all review and remember the writings of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and the importance of the farm that we seek to maintain.

Be sure to visit us at

www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org and

www.floridastateparks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Marjorie Kinnan
Rawlings in St. Augustine
February 1, 2018, 6pm
Lightner Museum
St. Augustine**



LIGHTNER MUSEUM
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA



Anne Pierce on her “Yearling Trail Walk” Saturday, February 24, 2018

The Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc., will sponsor a guided walk of a portion of the Yearling Trail in the Ocala National Forest on Saturday, February 24. Anne Pierce will read passages from *The Yearling* and tell the story of the Long Family in the Big Scrub. The walk is a 3 mile loop trail that includes the sink hole mentioned in the Rawlings novel. The area is rather flat through a mostly pine forest, and the trail is well maintained but sandy in places.

Do not plan to bring dogs or children younger than twelve please. Meet Anne at the Rawlings County Park adjacent to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park in Cross Creek at 8:15 a.m. to carpool to the trail. If you live over that way, you may meet us at the Silver Glenn

Springs parking lot at 9:30 a.m. **A reservation is required. Call the Park office (352-466-3672) by Monday, February 19 , leaving your name, number in your party, and a contact number; please indicate where you will meet us (Cross Creek or Silver Glenn Springs).**

If you go, you will need to wear closed shoes that will allow you to walk a sandy or woody trail, sun protection including a hat, water for the trail, and lunch or snacks if you like. We hope to be on the trail by 10:00 a.m. and back to the cars by about 1:00. Since we will be near Silver Glenn Springs, I plan to eat lunch at the springs (\$5.50 admission), and walk the “boils” trail (about 1 mile) with another reading from *The Yearling*. I suggest that you plan to come along to this part of the adventure to enjoy your picnic lunch and even a swim if you don’t mind the cold water.



Carol Fiddia Laxton Talk on March 3, 2018

Carol Fiddia Laxton will be presenting her reflections on Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings at the barn at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park on Saturday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Laxton is the daughter of Leonard Fiddia and granddaughter of Piety Fiddia. Rawlings stayed with Leonard and Piety in 1931 while doing research for her first Florida novel, *South Moon Under*. Leonard married in 1932 and Carol was born a few years later.

You may recall Anne Pierce’s article about Mrs. Laxton’s reminiscences in our Spring 2017 newsletter. As Anne stated in her article: “What a treat it was to have this chance to get a firsthand account of the Fiddia family and Rawlings’ relationship with them!” This will be another such opportunity.

Campfire Cooking and Boat Donation

On Saturday, October 28, 2017, yet another in the series of events celebrating the 75th Anniversary of *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery* occurred at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. All morning Freddie Morgan led the **Campfire Cooking** activities (with many volunteers and staff helping) producing a wonderful meal of soup, chili, greens and cornbread using recipes from Rawlings' *Cross Creek Cookery*.

At noon the crowd gathered for a presentation to the Park of a flat bottom boat and motor similar to what Marjorie would have used on Orange Lake. Representatives of the Antique Outboard Motor Club of Florida and the Sunnyland Antique and Classic Boat Society presented the period appropriate boat and motor. Greg and Suzie Homan, owners of the Citrus Tower in Clermont, Florida donated the boat. The little boat belonged to Suzie's father, Jim Lee, and was used to do maintenance on the lakes he stocked and for fishing with his daughter, Suzie. The motor, a model manufactured in the late 1940's, was donated by Steve Wood. For more information about old outboard motors contact Flaomci.com and for wooden boats, acbs-sunnyland.org



The boat and motor will be displayed in the barn area of the farmyard and become part of the interpretation of Marjorie Rawlings and her work.



Freddie Morgan

Valerie Rivers, Park Manager, read a passage from "Hyacinth Drift", Chapter 22 in *Cross Creek* in which Rawlings describes her river trip with her friend Dessie.

"She (Dessie) said, 'We'll take one of those river trips we've talked about. We'll take that eighteen-foot boat of yours with a couple of outboard motors and put in at the head of the St. John's River. We'll go down the river for several hundred miles.'".

After the presentation of the boat and motor about 45 guests plus 8 volunteers and staff enjoyed the food that was prepared on the campfire along with lemonade and Evadne's Gingerbread (from *Cross Creek Cookery*). Yet another outstanding event at the Park thanks to generous donors, dedicated volunteers and outstanding staff!

Photos from **The Pound Party**, a play written by Jim Stephens, and presented at the tenant house on December 2nd



Remembering Marjorie and Vineyard Tour

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, Jim Stephens presented a program, “Remembering Marjorie and her Friends”, at the Antioch Cemetery near Island Grove. Fifteen graves in the cemetery were visited, beginning with the grave of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Carol Fiddia Laxton joined the group and recounted that her parents, Leonard and Margaret Fiddia, had attended the funeral on December 13, 1953. The participants visited each of the grave sites, and Jim read a script he had written highlighting the life of each of the “friends” mentioned in *Cross Creek*. Thanks so much to Jim for his organization of the tour and his research on each person’s life.

Continuing down the road from the cemetery, the participants visited the Island Grove Wine Company. Here they ate a picnic lunch on the porch and toured the winery. A special thanks to Robyn at the Island Grove Wine Company for facilitating this visit and to Niko for the tour.



Photos from
All About Pie....
pie demonstration and contest held
November 4th



Pie Contest Judges Sue Teets, Terry Brightman and Tom Teets.

Volunteer Val Lightner



Pie Contest Winner
Mary Catherine Alford

Friends' Financial Overview for 2017

By Anne Pierce, Treasurer

It has been a very busy year as we celebrated the **75th Anniversary of the Publication of *Cross Creek* and *Cross Creek Cookery***. In fact, our celebration began in October 2016 and continued through December 2017. During this time we sponsored 47 events either at the Rawlings Farm or in the community. About 2000 people attended these events. Many hours of planning and work at events went into this very successful effort. I begin with this because the programming had a major impact on the finances of the organization during both 2016 and 2017.

In 2016, we began planning and preparation for the events to follow. Programming expenses were \$4,060 and inventory was purchased for our non-concession sales for \$2,765 (books, aprons, pens). In October 2016, the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farms were awarded a Tourism Product Development by Visit Gainesville -Alachua County. The grant paid out funds as they were requested after the Friends paid the bills. Therefore, the first funds from the grant were not requested until after January 1, 2017.

During 2017, the **Visit Gainesville-Alachua County Grant** paid us \$17,976 for programming and advertisement expenses, and we spent \$16,946 (in addition to the \$4,060 spent in 2016) on the 75th Anniversary events.

Other income for the year included membership \$2,790, \$609 contributions, \$903 drawings at events, \$2,815 event ticket sales, and net for sales of books, etc. of \$4,835.

Other expenses for the year included Newsletter and Web Site \$2206, \$296 Park related (plants, fertilizer, etc.), and \$994 membership, support and general expenses.

The Florida Humanities Council awarded the Friends a **Community Project Grant** for \$5,000 to cover expenses to producing three short videos during October 2017-September 2018. Videographer, Sonya Doctorian, is the lead on the production of these videos. The Friends have received \$4,500 of these funds, and \$1,066 has been dispersed by the end of 2017. The final \$500 will be received by the Friends when the project is completed.

The Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm currently has assets of \$36,250.

We thank each of you for your support of the Friends' organization through your membership, your donations, and your attendance at programs. Together we support the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park and the legacy of Ms. Rawlings.

We have 197 members of the Friends; 56 of them are Lifetime Members. You may help the organization by renewing in a timely fashion (renewal date is next your name on the mailing label) and recruiting new members. Your contributions are always welcome whether monetary or volunteer hours.

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
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Robert E. Haines
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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
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Colleen, Frank and Lana Mahoney
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Shirley and Pierre Thompson
M. List Underwood, Jr.
Pamela Lydick Whiting
Colleen Whitlock
Barbara Wingo

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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
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!

Photo from **Holiday
Cookie Decorating**
Event held December 16th. Pictured are Volunteer Geoff Gates and Tour Guide Donna Wright



Photo from **Annual Meeting** held December 9th



Membership Information

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 _____

Comments: