



First Clean-up Day: 28 Feb '09

## Welcome!

... to the first issue of the Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park newsletter! Our monthly publication will feature news on park progress, activities and volunteer days. We may be asking our members for their input about their experiences as they get out and explore the land. We're also eager to report on historical and ecological aspects of our park and the area, so feel free to contribute your knowledge!

## Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting several months since the state Department of Natural Resources announced that work on the Chattahoochee Bend State Park is a go! Since August '08, the DNR and state parks folks have been hard at work finalizing the plans for Chatt Bend's first phase. Coweta County government has been hard at work improving Flat Rock Road to the park entrance. We are looking forward to beginning Phase One work in late 2009, and to having a beautiful spot for hiking, canoeing, camping and other recreation activities open soon after.

Before and after the park opens, there will be a huge need for private citizens to get involved. That is why we've formed this Friends organization. It has taken several months for folks to organize the chapter, get approval from the Friends of Georgia State Parks/DNR and prepare for our very first volunteer day at Chatt Bend, in February.

The good news is, so many people in the area are excited about the opening of Chattahoochee Bend Park. Hundreds have turned out over these last several months to hear more about the park, volunteer to organize the chapter, and muddy-up their boots during clean-ups (and sight-seeing). Working with Department of Natural Resources personnel, State Parks officials and the great folks at the private Friends of Georgia State Parks organization has been a joy, too.

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## Important Dates ~ 2009

### Volunteer Days

Volunteer Days, which may include clean up days, exploring days, membership drives and fund raising days, will be held on the **fourth Saturday of each month**. Details will be issued via email to current members, and will be available on the FoCBSP website and in the monthly newsletter.

**April 25** is the next **volunteer day**, and will feature a **Volunteer Picnic Hike!** The hike will begin at **10:00 am** where the power lines cross Flat Rock Road. Hikers will head west to the river for a picnic lunch (please bring your own!).

The hike will be a "walking meeting" of sorts, for members to become familiar with each other, and for information about progress with the park to be shared. Hikers are encouraged to pick up trash along the way, so please bring work gloves and trash bags.

Ticks and other "ouch-bugs" will be out in full force, so be prepared with appropriate clothing and repellent. Return hikes will be at your own discretion.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Flat Road Rock is impassable without four-wheel-drive south of the Sign-in Kiosk. All participants should approach the park via Payton Road to the north, then proceed south on Flat Rock to the Sign-in Kiosk.

**Directions are on Page 2.**

### First Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on June 6, 2009, at the Panther Creek Community Center. This special public meeting will feature, along with a cookout, the election of the first elected Board of Directors for the chapter.

Note that only dues-paid members of Friends of GA State Parks may vote in the election. You can register at the meeting and be able to vote. Also, we know who has selected CBSP as their "home park", but members "from" other parks who will switch may not be on our roster. Please bring your membership card or window hang tags!



*Dear Friends, continued...*

They have all been welcoming, helpful and friendly, and just as excited about state parks, outdoor recreation and the preservation of beautiful natural land as we are! The result: the Friends of Chattahoochee Bend Park is now officially a Friends Chapter – the **first in Georgia** to have formed before our park opens!

We have scheduled regular clean-ups, informational sessions, fundraisers, and other activities at the future park site. We're also ready to provide helpful support when the park opens. We hope you'll become a member and a volunteer, and hope to see you soon on the 'Hooch!

— Dean Jackson, President,  
Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park



Dean Jackson and Pam Giles after the Feb. 28 clean-up.

## Directions to the Bend Kiosk

Take Railroad St. south from Hwy 16 in Sargent. Follow Railroad St./Welcome-Sargent Road west to Boone Road and turn right. Follow Boone Road to Payton/Silton Road and turn right. Follow Payton Road west to Flat Rock Road (turn left., pavement ends and gravel begins). The kiosk is a ahead on the left. ( N33.43776 W84.97526 )

## The Leaders of the Pack

Every Friends chapter has an administrative Board of Directors that performs many duties for the chapter and for the chapter's home park. In 2008, as Coweta County moved forward on improving the main access road to the park, a group of citizens formed a Steering Committee that set the foundations for the Friends chapter.

A charter was written, amended, tweaked and sent to the Friends of GA State Parks organization. In January 2009 the Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park (FoCBSP) was officially chartered.

Many of the Steering Committee members elected to serve on an interim Board of Directors until the first Annual Meeting in June. The current FoCBSP Board of Directors is:

Dean Jackson, President – Mr. Jackson is the Public Information Officer for the Coweta Board of Education.

Glenn Flake, Vice President – Mr. Flake is the former President of Newnan Hospital.

Pam Giles, Secretary – Mrs. Giles runs a home-based business making delectable BBQ sauce.

Robbie Hinely, Treasurer – Mr. Hinely is the owner of Hit the Trail in downtown Newnan.

The other board members are: Buck Altschul, Stephen Bush, Sarah Fay Campbell, Monroe DeVos, Mark Mitchell, Steve St. Laurent and Joe Thogmartin.



Glenn Flake poses with the DNR/GA State Parks "Get Outdoors Gopher" at State Park Day at the GA Capitol.

## Useful Resources

Friends of Chattahoochee Bend website:

<http://www.friendsofgastateparks.org/friends/chattahoocheebend>

Georgia State Parks website:

<http://www.gastateparks.org>

Yahoo! Groups Chattahoochee Bend Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChattahoocheeBendFriend/>