



THE PETTIT PRESERVE

The Margaret & Luke Pettit Environmental Preserve, Inc.

Annual Report: July 2013-June 2014

I. Program

- A. 8 volunteers provided 144 hours of service in the education program, including 2 new volunteers that were trained.
- B. The **3rd Annual Youth Fishing & Outdoors Camp** was a success with 14 boys & 2 girls age 9-13 participating. Cohutta Fishing provided most of the instruction and the Preserve handled registration, publicity and communication with participants.
- C. The **Summer Daycare Field Trip** program was more heavily marketed this year and saw 105 students & 16 adults in June 2014.
- D. The recession has cut greatly into school field trips, but we are seeing the numbers beginning to rebound. **764 students** & 315 adults were served through onsite school field trips at the Preserve.
- E. **Total attendance for onsite programs was 1095.**

II. Education Outreach/Community Involvement

- A. **2013 Georgia On My Mind Hike & Scavenger Hunt** on August 17 from 5-9 pm featured written & physical clues on the trail to help participants identify various Georgia state symbols: tree, mammal, game bird, reptile, etc. Inclement weather meant there were only 9 participants but all had good feedback on the program.
- B. The Preserve participated in the volunteer picnic for Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup in September 2013. The booth featured animal pelts & other artifacts and saw approximately 100 persons.
- C. **October 2013 Snakes Alive! Hike** featured crafts and information on snakes, including ways to distinguish venomous and non-venomous snakes in Georgia. 24 adults and 20 children attended the event.
- D. For the fifth consecutive year, the Preserve participated in the **Cartersville Elementary School Family Discovery Night**, which promotes math & science topics in a festival type atmosphere at the school. For the February 2014 program, plant biology was the topic with a radish seed necklace craft. Approximately 125 persons attended the Preserve's program.
- E. **March 2014 Hike & Hunt** was a scavenger hunt themed hike attended by 15 adults & 7 children.
- F. **June 2014 Reptile Roundup** hike featured DNR Ranger Ronnie Holcomb with a collection of snakes & turtles for participants to touch and experience. The event had good attendance with 18 adults & 19 children participating.
- G. **Total Attendance for Outreach/Community Involvement was 337 persons.**
- H. **Total Attendance for all Programs & Outreach was 1432**



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III. Grounds

- A. Three **self-contained composting toilets** from Sun-Mar Corporation were installed at the Preserve in 2014. The unique, all-in-one units have no pit, are NSF approved, are sanitary & odor free, requiring very little maintenance.
 - 1. One of the units was installed in a small building constructed for that purpose **adjacent to the Learning Shed** by an Eagle Scout in 2012. The added unit will facilitate quicker restroom breaks by large school groups.
 - 2. Two of the units were placed in a building installed **adjacent to the Boardroom for Planet Earth** that provides restroom facilities on the south end of the property for the first time.
- B. **The Rotary Loop Trail** was added to connect the James Randall Roe/Toyo Trail with the Ann & John Collins Trail to form a .65 mi loop. All three local Rotary Clubs (Bartow, Cartersville & Etowah) provided funds and volunteer labor to carve the trail, under the supervision of Bill Hamrick, the Preserve's experienced trail manager. A ribbon cutting with the Cartersville Bartow Chamber of Commerce was held on May 29, 2014. Refreshments at the event included fried fish that was caught from the Preserve lake.
- C. **The Floating Bridge**, located on the Rotary Loop Trail, was designed and installed by Casey Docks using designated funds given last year by James Dellinger. The bridge, comprised of two gangways attached to a central floating dock, is in use, but has not yet been named or dedicated. The bridge is constructed of aluminum with composite vinyl decking so as to be completely maintenance free.
- D. The Board commissioned an **Electro-Fishing study from Aquatic Environmental** to assess the health and population of the Preserve lake ecosystem. The recommendations from the study, completed in May 2014, will guide the Preserve's efforts to keep the lake system healthy over the next 2-3 years.
- E. **27 volunteers contributed 128 hours of service** in trail maintenance, trail construction and general maintenance.

IV. Membership

- A. Membership was changed from calendar year to ongoing 12 month memberships to facilitate year round sign up.
- B. Fishing on the Preserve lake is now available on all Members-Only Saturdays (6 per year), with limited takes on fish species identified for management.



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- C. At the end of the fiscal year, the Preserve had **24 memberships**, up 9% from last year's pilot program.

V. Administrative/Board

- A. One Board member, J.B. Tate, resigned from the Board of Directors. Two members were added: Joe Wilson of Parnick Jennings Funeral Home and Greg Hight, Director, Bartow County Recreation Department.
- B. With new facilities and expanding membership, the Board revised and integrated policies on Preserve Lake Use, Outside Events, and Camping Guidelines.
- C. The Board adopted a Board member responsibilities/job description for all members that includes the legal responsibilities of non-profit boards in Georgia.
- D. The Board adopted a policy requiring all members to contribute financially to the Preserve through either membership or sponsorship.

VI. Staff

- A. Lori Jewell began her 5th year with the Preserve in January 2014. Marina Robertson began her 4th year with the Preserve in December 2013.
- B. To continue her professional development, Lori Jewell attended the 2 day Georgia Environmental Education Alliance Conference and attended workshops on bats, raptors, waste water ecology and developing environmental education programs for homeschoolers. The hours helped her fulfill her continuing education requirement as a National Association of Interpretation Certified Guide.
- C. Staff developed Trail Emergency Procedures and met with local firefighters to orient them to the Preserve trails and roads.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marina Robertson, Executive Director
September 2014