

# CLT Member News

The Cobb Land Trust Inc.

Founded  
1993

## Glorious Weather for Patrons' Day at McFarlane

Mother Nature cooperated with plans for Patrons Day at McFarlane Nature Park. The beautiful spring day was perfect for ceremonies, unveiling of the three bronze plaques, tours of the gardens, and picnics.

Friends and patrons of the park gathered to enjoy a barbecue lunch provided by William-son Brothers Barbecue.

After lunch, Task Force Chairman **Bill Avirett** directed proceedings, gathering visitors at the counsel seating area, where he revisited the history of the park. CLT Chair **Karin Guzy** spoke of the other projects within the Trust and introduced the CLT Founder **Sue Wootton**.

The earliest McFarlane task force chairman, **Roger Vinton**, and his family, flew in from Charlotte for the occasion.

Several of the young men who completed their Eagle Scout projects at the park were in attendance to assist with the unveiling of three bronze plaques. One lists the names of those individuals and organizations who were the original patrons of the park. The center plaque tells the history of

Tours of the 1941 farmhouse were popular.



*CLT Chair Karin Guzy, Former CLT Chair Larry Guzy, Founder Sue Wootton, Task Force Chair Bill Avirett, McFarlane Treasurer Jerry Thompson and Former CLT Chair Roger Vinton, in front of plaques.*

Florence McFarlane and the park itself. The third lists those Eagle Scouts who have contributed to the park through completion of projects there. The plaques were mounted on a sign board built by **Chase Greene** and his fellow troop members.

The Stewart family, caretakers who live at the park, gave tours of the 1941 farmhouse. Many of the attendees took advantage of this opportunity to see the inside of this focal point at McFarlane.

Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County gave tours of the display gardens behind the farmhouse.

A dessert social was held after the unveiling.





Todd Avirett, Mark Bleichner and Chase Greene attended Patrons Day. Each completed a project at the park in attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Greene's project was the board that holds the plaques.



Nineteen young men completed projects at McFarlane Nature Park while pursuing the rank of Eagle Scout. Each project involved many more scouts who assisted.

## FUNDRAISER KICKED OFF

Patrons Day participants were introduced to Phase II of the Fundraising Campaign for a permanent bathroom facility at McFarlane Nature Park. CLT board member **Jeff Gross** is heading up the effort. **Laurel Gross** created an outhouse poster to keep track of contributions. About \$7,200 of the \$25,000 needed was raised during Phase I, primarily due to the fundraising of the Chattahoochee Plantation Women's Club (CPWC).

Phase I funded invisible improvements, such as hooking up to the county sewer and water systems and laying pipe to the bathroom site. The farmhouse was put on sewer at that time and water lines were run to other sites, such as a fire pit and gardens.

Architect **Phil Laney** donated a plan for the project, which is moving forward with the assistance of **Nader Zarrabi**, who is building four homes between Paper Mill and Farm Road. **Cy Johnson** cleared the site and has leveled the ground for laying of concrete, that we hope to have donated.

At Patrons Day, Representative **Sharon Cooper** committed to "matching funds" up to a \$2500 for McFarlane. \$500 and a pledge of \$1000 have already been received (w/match=\$3000).

Not included in the match are funds raised by the Women's Club during a successful McFarlane Rummage Sale held at the park on May 15th. The sale was organized by members **Lynn Hoffman** and **Glenna Sullivan**.

A porta-potty has been provided to visitors for several years, while the task force continued to pursue funding and assistance to complete a permanent facility. Contributions are needed to reach the goal and maximize the matching grant. Assistance and expertise are welcome.

To assist, please contact Jeff Gross at [jeffreygross@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffreygross@yahoo.com)

## Cobb Land Trust Qualified for IBM Matching Grants

The land trust is a qualified recipient of matching funds from a grant program through IBM. Contributions of present and retired IBM employees are matched by the corporation.

Donations to the Trust must be accompanied by a matching funds form from the giver. In 2003, CLT received \$525 from IBM through this program.



<http://www.cobblandtrust.org>

Visit CLT on the web Original Contributors and Eagle Scouts are honored on our website.

Find Rules for Use that will guide you in planning events at McFarlane Nature Park.



## Visions of Cobb Photo Contest

Entries have started to arrive for the photo contest initiated by CLT in an effort to share many of the wonderful places, scenes and events that make Cobb worth preserving.

The monthly contest features photos in seven different categories, with monthly winners displayed at the CLT website. Annual winners will be displayed at the North Georgia State Fair in September at Jim Miller Park.

Rules and entry form are available at [www.cobblandtrust.org](http://www.cobblandtrust.org)



*This recent photo contest winning shot was taken by Rick Kallmeyer of Fox Hills.*

### Photo Categories

- Architecture
- Events
- Family
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Plant life
- Landscape
- Professionals

professional photos may be of any subject

## Nectar Garden Houses Three Hives for Italian Honeybees

Before there was a McFarlane Nature Park, when Mrs. Florence McFarlane was still alive, beekeeper **David Smith** kept a hive at the farm.

Smith became the third Chairman of CLT, leading the Trust through the development of Heritage Park and expansion of CLT's responsibilities to other parts of the county. He also took a personal interest in the welfare of McFarlane's wildlife, and built the bat box and many of the birdhouses currently on the property.

When David and his wife moved to Maryland, where he is now the president of the Maryland Beekeepers' Assn., the search for a new keeper began.

The position was filled by **Jim Ovbey**, a lifelong East Cobb County resident. As a child, Jim attended Mountain View Elementary School, where he later served as principal for 10 years. Jim's childhood 4-H project was his first hive. He reentered beekeeping about 14 years

ago, and joined the Metro Atlanta Beekeeper's Assoc. at that time. The group is "very cosmopolitan", Jim says, including all ages and occupations. They meet at 7 p.m., Third Tuesdays, at the Dunwoody Nature Center, and offer a Beekeeper



Short Course during the spring. The Sope Creek Garden Club developed a Nectar Garden around the hives to provide a passive restraint to small visitors and showcase nectar producing plants. Jim advises that many of the sources the bees crave are not the ones we think of, but rather tulip poplar, red maple, blackberries and magnolias. They "don't mess with" Brad-

ford pears.

In February-March, the queen starts laying eggs and the keepers start to feed the bees corn syrup and pollen patties, to kick-start the season. March and April bring the early natural forage sources to bloom. In May, the hives start to warm and become more crowded. Keepers add supers to allow for more storage space in the hives. The end of May, beginning of June, about half the honey is harvested from the frames. Bees produce more than they need.

Two-thirds of our food supply depends on bee pollination. For more information about the bees, visit the CLT website.

### Linton Joins CLT Board

Greg Linton, the current president of the Friends of Nesbitt/Union Chapel, was recently elected to the board of directors of CLT. Greg has been very active in several preservation organizations in Marietta and has served, with great dedication, the causes of green-space and preservation.

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*Preserving our natural areas and open space*



## Nesbitt-Union Chapel Ruins Damaged by Bulldozer

On March 22nd, the long term dispute over the title to the 188-year old Nesbitt-Union Chapel resulted in the partial destruction of the remaining ruins.

A charitable trust deed, implemented in 1886 should have protected the chapel, but in 1973 the property was sold for

back taxes on the courthouse steps. **District Atty. Pat Head** was quoted as saying, "It was a charitable trust. It never should have been on the tax digest in the first place."

Arthur Clark bought the property at auction from the county, and his sons believe themselves to be the owners. The Clark brothers authorized the clearing of the ru-

ins , they said, to protect themselves from liability in the event someone on the property was hurt.

Quick action by **Jayson Wil-**



**son**, a member of the Friends of Nesbitt Union Chapel, saved a portion of the front wall. Wilson was driving by, saw the bulldozer and went to stop the activity. Police and the district attorney's of-

fice were called. Legal action taken in January had resulted in the county commissioners being made trustees of the property, pending resolution of the title dispute.

"The ultimate question, "Head says, " is 'Who owns the property?' "

A temporary restraining order was issued by the court to pre-

vent anyone from taking any actions on the property until ownership is resolved.

**Judge George Kreeger** will hear arguments in the title dispute. Friends, a task force of CLT, contends that in keeping with Georgia Law, a Trust does not fail for lack of trustees, and that the property should never have been on the tax rolls.

Friends had begun the process of planning the educational uses of the site to benefit Cobb school children. The remaining corner of the wall is still a valuable asset to preservationists who can study it's construction. Preservationists believe that much of the ruin can be rebuilt if no further damage occurs to the site. One side wall fell almost intact, which would make reconstruction easier. Watch the website for the court date if you wish to lend your presence in support.

***Contributions to The Cobb Land Trust help position the trust to take on the opportunities of the future.***

***Your contribution can be designated to a specific task force or the general fund.***

***If you wish to support the trust, send your tax deductible donation to:***

**THE COBB LAND TRUST INC.**