McFarlane Nature Park News

Sharing with those who work and care for the Park

November 2023

Thanks to former board member Lynn Thompson, the Park benefitted from a September 17th **Pond Tour**, featuring five ponds and gardens in the immediate area. The four-hour tour attracted about 55 visitors, and although the tour was free, it yielded about $4,200 in donations. One of those donations, for $1,000, was made to the Future Fund Endowment.

Volunteers from the Chattahoochee Plantation Women's Club served as docents in the five gardens.

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On October 24, the Master Gardener crew made an effort to increase their ranks by inviting Master Gardeners from other projects to come and meet McFarlane. The MGs invested their budget in the purchase of nearly 200 groundcover plants, intended to cover bare ground and prevent the growth of weeds in the spring. Neighbors assisted as well. Another eight native azaleas were installed in the wooded area west of the restrooms.

Both bathtubs were cleaned, painted and planted, using the hugel kultur method, which involved adding limbs and twigs to the tubs then covering them with soil. The tub near the pavilion had never been used before.

Preliminary results indicate that additional MGs have been joining the regular crew on Tuesday mornings in planting and tending the display gardens. Neighbors are welcome to join in.

After the planting was completed, the Trust treated all to box lunches and conversation at the pavilion picnic tables.

In October, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)—Piedmont Chapter, installed a Liberty Tree, an American Elm, *Ulmus americana* 'Princeton', in the front pasture.

The SAR plans to plant 250 trees across the country to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the country.

The variety chosen is reputed to be resistant to Dutch Elm disease and elm beetles, and will need a sponsor to watch over it's care.

Ron Redner was one of the SARs who arrived in uniform to dedicate the tree.

STATUS: McFarlane Future Fund Endowment

McFarlane receives no government funds and is operated entirely by donations and volunteer time. To make the Park more self sufficient, a 2023 goal of $100,000 was set to establish an endowment fund. The total is currently at $42,796. Funds are being held in a Money Market Fund to grow toward the future. No funds will be taken from the initial $100,000, with future benefits to the operating budget resulting from a portion of interest earned after reaching that foundational amount. Donors of $1,000+ will be recognized as Founding Contributors.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sign Board Repair

Determine best means of repairing/replacing/covering wood surface of sign board

Little Library

Take responsibility for soundness of Little Library structure.

Repairs as required.

Literature Box

Be responsible for keeping literature boxes full.

Display Gardens

Join the Master Gardener crew any Tuesday morning to maintain the gardens.

Crew chief is Kate Mason. Bring gloves.

Meadow prep for winter

Cut down tallest of the meadow dwellers to prep for a February trim to 5" by the resident Dixie Chopper.

VOLUNTEERS WHO WISH TO FOLLOW UP ON THESE OPPORTUNITIES MAY CONTACT KARIN at karinguzy@gmail.com, or call with questions 678-860-4445

www.cobblandtrust.org

Facebook.com/McFarlanePark

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