



McFarlane Nature Park News

Sharing with those who work and care for the Park
April 2025



Plein Air Painting Day

April 26 9a—1p

Rain date April 27

A Dozen Artists original paintings for sale

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTISTS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

On Sunday, May 4, a bench will be dedicated to Joseph Gavalis who served the local community for many years as president of the Chattahoochee Plantation Community Association. The dedication will take place between 2 and 4p, in the back pasture.

Harmless and helpful native ground-nesting bees are leaving behind small mounds of dirt as they emerge for spring. They do not sting. They are not yellow jackets. The small bees are only with us for a few weeks and are busy pollinating our spring flowers and trees. Take care not to treat lawns where they live with herbicides and other chemicals that may harm them.



In response to supporters of the endowment, the following is the Statement of Purpose accepted by the governing board.

McFarlane Future Fund, an endowment Statement of Purpose

"The governing task force of McFarlane Nature Park established the Future Fund in Fall of 2022.

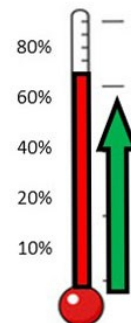
The intent is to provide financial security to the property identified as the McFarlane Nature Park, 280 Farm Rd SE, Marietta, which is owned entirely by The Cobb Land Trust Inc.

The goal is to establish a \$100,000 corpus before any funds may be expended. That base amount to be conservatively invested to minimize risk in perpetuity, or until the dissolution of the corporation.

Thereafter the governing body of McFarlane Nature Park may extract up to 80% of the annual increase each year for the purpose of operating the Park property. This action will be taken only with the majority approval of the governing body, will be authorized based on a calendar year, and is not required to total 80%. If no need exists for the funds to be withdrawn, then the endowment will retain those funds. The increase will be calculated, by the treasurer, based on the total within the endowment on December 31 of the year prior to any withdrawal."

Donations can be sent to Cobb Land Trust, PO Box 672652, Marietta GA 30006

FUTURE
FUND
\$100,000
GOAL



Why plant native?

At McFarlane, we only plant what is native to the Piedmont-area of Georgia. We determine this by referring to the industry respected source—*Flora of the Southeast*, author Alan Weakley, who is an American botanist with expertise in the systematics, ecology, and conservation of the flora of the Southeastern United States. Weakley is the director of the UNC Herbarium at the North Carolina Botanical Garden and an adjunct associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

But why?

Over millenia, plants and animals have grown up together. Because the plants are clever, and they devise ways to prevent being eaten, some insects specialized and evolved to resist the poisons that the plants produced. This worked for both plant and insect. Predation was limited to just one insect. Competition was limited for the insect as well. Now the dilemma arises—what if that plant is no longer available? Specialization means the insect requires that plant to survive.

There are generalists, of course, and we often hear the argument that “Bees visit all my flowers whether they are native or not.” That’s true. But when is the last time you saw a Walking Stick? Do we know how many more butterflies would live with us if we were providing for their needs?

Spring is breaking out all over the display gardens. It is a pleasure to walk among the wildflowers. The meadow was cut back in late winter and will soon be returning. Bluebirds now inhabit the two bluebird boxes and the purple martins have returned in the back pasture.



Porteranthus, also called Bowman’s Root or Fawn’s Breath.

Our Master Gardener crew is embarking on an effort this spring to install “matrix plantings” that are plantings of natives with a rosette of leaves that spread and cover the bare ground which goes a long way toward preventing weed growth. The new installations include hundreds of small plants including *Porteranthus*, Wild *Geranium*, and a selection of *Carex* grasses.



Sat May 24, volunteers are needed. 9 a.m.— 12 noon

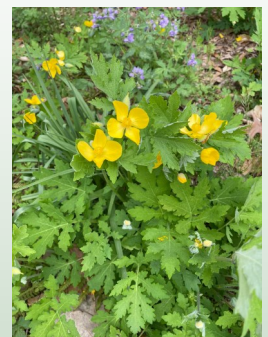
David Long, Georgia Forestry Commission's urban forester for Cobb County, will head up an event about invasive plants. Long will lead an educational walk, and provide training in the removal of invasives, followed by a hands-on session removing laurels and ivy. Activity will require sturdy shoes and gloves. Volunteers should also bring clippers, loppers, and saws, although a small number will be provided.

Weed wrenches or tree removal tools would also be helpful.

Water will be provided. Bring a bag lunch if you wish.



Mertensia virginica,
Virginia Bluebells



Woods Poppies

We are recognizing Jonathan Tucker and the crew for their support of our tree program. Jonathan has planted three of our large trees at no charge, including two new memorial Serviceberries.



Fan Mail

“I respect the ongoing upkeep, admire the Master Gardeners' gardens, the tranquility of a nature walk, the availability of facilities and the occasional chats with other folks, who enjoy these local outdoor ventures as I do.”

Facebook.com/McFarlane Park.

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