



## President's Report at 2007 Annual Meeting

The Three Main Goals of the B. W. Wells Association are **Conservation**, **Environmental Education** and **Historic Preservation**. We are working on or have achieved certain objectives this year under each goal.

### Conservation

Johnny Randall and Hugh Nourse are carrying out research to identify wildflowers that have been lost because of the flooding of the lake. The intent is to replace lost plants in a suitable environment on or near Rock Cliff Farm. Johnny and Hugh have already increased the number of existing native plants, especially trout lilies, through the generosity of the NC Botanical Garden. This work will continue as research identifies additional plants.

Liz Ford, Earl Creutzburg, Hugh Nourse, Bill Williams and John Pelosi worked with Brian Bockhahn to keep the trails cleared and the grounds looking good for Heritage Day and other events at Rock Cliff Farm.

### Environmental Education

Heritage Day was a huge success. Over 500 visitors went on several tours led by Brian Bockhahn, Ken Moore, Hugh Nourse, Earl Creutzburg and Johnny Randall.

The Education Committee headed by Earl is putting together a program for campers at the B. W. Wells group camp site. Topics will include B. W. Wells history, plant ecology, identifying native plants and other topics that will inform campers about Rock Cliff Farm and hopefully increase interest in touring the farm and joining the Association.

Earl is also working on the project to replace display cases which have fallen into disrepair and adding new ones. We are using the \$1500 grant from HANDS to accomplish this.

Brian Bockhahn and Jean McCamy are working on completing the book, "Natural Gardens of Rock Cliff Farm. This work should be completed by our next annual meeting.

The combined efforts of Brian, Pamela Andrejev and Jimmy Ray have produced a new membership bro-

chure. Brian has been working on this for a very long time and decisions were finally made about what content to include and what to leave out. Jimmy, our Membership Director has also produced a pin showing a B. W. Wells painting of Zeagle's Rock which is given to members.

### Historic Preservation

Rock Cliff Farm was placed on the National List of Historic Places on August 29, 2007. The Corps of Engineers started seeking this designation about 17 years ago. The B. W. Wells Association can take full credit for getting it done since the board initiated action to do this in 2005. We thank Davyd Foard Hood for his successful application. Jeff Adolphson, as Director for Buildings and as specialist in historic preservation deserves much credit for steering this project through to completion.

Mr. Ed Osborne, retired Master Carpenter has volunteered to head up a project to repair the porch on the Wells' home, donating his time and expertise. A proposal has been submitted to Superintendent Scott Kershner for making the repairs with all materials paid for by the Association. Scott is eager to have this work done and will advocate for its approval by State officials.

John Pelosi, President, B. W. Wells Association

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** If you haven't already renewed your membership in the Association, please consider doing it. Membership extends from the annual meeting in September to the next annual meeting. If you have renewed, consider making a small donation. Contributions to the B. W. Wells Association (including membership dues) are tax deductible under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(a)(vi) of the Internal Revenue code.

## Upcoming Events

October 25 - 7 p.m. - NC State exhibit tour by Kevin Schliesser. RSVP with John Pelosi at [jpelosi@embarqmail.com](mailto:jpelosi@embarqmail.com) or 556-3409

Saturday March 29, 2008 - [HERITAGE DAY!](#)

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the B.W. Wells Association was held at Rock Cliff Farm on Sunday, September 16 at 1 p.m. About 85 people attended and enjoyed a Pig Pickin' hosted by Jimmy and Alice Ray. Several people arrived early to help cook and set up.



John Pelosi welcomed members and guests and recognized Sandy Reid, representing the Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors (HANDS) and

thanked her for the \$1500 grant to be used for new displays.

Bill Williams, Treasurer, reported a total balance of \$44,022.65 in checking, Investment Savings and CDs

John reported on the Association's activities during the past year, which included listing on the **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.**

Jean McCamy reported for the nominating committee. The officers are all serving the second year of a two year term, Fran Shapiro has agreed to fill an unexpired term that ends in 2008. Jimmy Ray and Earl Creutzburg's terms expired this year. They both agreed to serve another three-year term and will be joined by Larry Earley, retired editor of N.C. Wildlife magazine. The proposed directors were unanimously elected.



Officially on the NATIONAL REGISTER!

John Pelosi introduced Kevin Schlesier, Curator of the B.W. Wells exhibit at D.H. Hill Library at N.C. State University. He gave an informative and entertaining talk about the installation of the exhibit and invited everyone to visit before it is dismantled at the end of the next semester.



Johnny Randall conducted a raffle of native plants donated by the N.C. Botanical Garden, followed by guided tours of the site led by Brian Bockhahn and Johnny Randall.

### \*\*\*PERSIMMON PUDDING\*\*\*

2 cups persimmon pulp  
3 extra large eggs  
1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups whole milk  
2 cups sifted flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. mixed spices\*  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups sugar  
3 Tbl. melted butter

Sift all dry ingredients together. Mix Persimmon Pulp, Eggs and Milk. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Pour into a greased pan (9" x 13" works well). Bake about an hour at 325 degrees. Cool in pan. Cut into squares. This freezes well if there is any left.

\*Mix 1 tsp. Nutmeg, 1 tsp. Cinnamon,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. Cloves,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. Allspice or any spices you might have on hand, using  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. of stronger spices and 1 tsp. of the milder ones. Shake well together and store in an airtight container. Measure 1 tsp. for the pudding.

Notes: Persimmon Pudding was an old standby at all B. W. Wells gatherings. There was a competition among the ladies as to who could make the best Persimmon Pudding. (Ray Noggle said they all tasted the same to him).

This recipe came from Bobby Osborne's cookbook, written in her own hand.

Margaret Osborne Pridgen

## Tarheel Ecologist Workshop

I offered my second B.W. Wells Workshop on September 26, 2007. The registration limit was exceeded, but some last minute cancellations brought the attendance down to twelve educators from across the state.

Thanks to the work of the State Parks new Lead Interpretation and Education Specialist, there is a slight budget for state park offered workshops. As a result each participant received a copy of B.W. Wells landmark book, "The Natural Gardens of North Carolina!"

The Lead I&E Specialist was in attendance, along with the new district lead educator covering the eight state parks in the north district, including Falls Lake.

The low water made for some interesting shore line viewing, at Soapstone Point we all enjoyed watching a Northern Water Snake attempting to eat a catfish along the shore line.

The weather was absolutely perfect for workshop attendees as we enjoyed tours, hikes, games and activities about B.W. Wells and Rock Cliff Farm.

A quick thanks to Johnny Randall and the N.C. Botanical Gardens for some plants to award as game and activity prizes.

Keep checking the [web site](#) for workshop dates in 2008. I will continue to offer two per year in early March and late September.

Brian Bockhahn



Museum tour group at Soapstone Point. The lake level is about five feet below normal.

## Tours and visits

The summer brought us many visitors for a variety of tours and programs. When John Pelosi called me about coming in on my day off for a specially arranged tour I was hesitant. Then he told me it was for Congressman Brad Miller, North Carolina. How could I say no?

Ranger Mike Willaford and superintendent Kershner were also in attendance.



On September 19th, Association member and friend Jerry Reynolds of the N.C. Museum of Science brought out his Lifelong Hikers group for a hike around Rock Cliff Farm.



During the summer months several scout and other youth groups visited Rock Cliff Farm to learn about B.W. Wells, hike new trails and enjoy the scenery.

Program and tour requests are flowing in for the fall and winter seasons.

Brian Bockhahn

## Field Trip: B.W. Wells Savannah

On May 5, several members made the trek to visit the B.W. Wells Savannah in Pender county. We met Jessica Blake of the [Coastal Land Trust](#), who gave us an overview of the 117 acre savannah nestled in between to power line cuts.



They have fire lines cut and plan to burn the entire property to make it all savannah land. Bear, coyote, bobcat, Eastern diamondback rattlesnake are on checklist. It took about two hours to walk through the first power line with many good clusters of pitcher plants, sundews and a variety of other things. From one location we could see **four species** of carnivorous plants!

Epicormic branching on burned pines was an intriguing sight. Unfortunately the recent freeze killed off most of the pitcher plant blooms, so there was not an abundance of flowering plants.



Pitcher Plant, *Sarracenia flava*

We drove down to the next power line which was wetter and found a few more things, a **sundew** in bloom and a few orchids that were just off the property on some mowed trails.



Our last stop was along Old Savannah Road where we drove about 3 miles through the “lost” Big Savannah. The ditches were deep and spaced throughout the field. Agriculture had won the fight over natural land protection.

The vast expanse was incredible, after spending two hours in one small power line cut, it was difficult to imagine an expanse over a **THOUSAND** times bigger. It was somewhat depressing, but at least a “ghost” of the Big Savannah remains, protected.



The daily checklist also contained a few unhappy Black Racers, several skinks, frogs, anoles, a fine assortment of birds and numerous butterflies and dragonflies.



At the end of Old Savannah Road we found the spot where the rail station in B.W. Wells old photographs of the site was located.

After a nice Chinese buffet lunch in Burgaw, we said goodbye to this natural garden and drove home in the rain. With flowers blooming from February to December, we may have to plan some future field trips here! The Coastal Land Trust leads an annual plant hike.

**B.W. Wells Association  
Membership Information**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

___ Student/Senior	\$10
___ Membership (Individual)	\$15
___ Membership (Patron)	\$50
___ Family	\$30
___ Club/Partner Organization	\$75
___ Life Membership	\$100

**Benefits:**

- Organized walks and lectures
- Interpretive Displays
- Meetings and Newsletters
- Maintained hiking trails
- Educational project for students of all ages
- Realization of a living memorial

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: B.W. Wells Association  
PO Box 1901  
Wake Forest NC 27588

**Mission Statement**

The B.W. Wells Association will strive to educate the public about B.W. Wells, North Carolina's first plant ecologist, and promote his conservation ethics. The Association will achieve its mission primarily by assisting the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to preserve, restore and interpret the unique cultural and natural resources at Rock Cliff Farm, the site of Wells' retirement.

**Vision Statement**

*The B.W. Wells Association will be the leading resource for educating the public about B.W. Wells and his philosophy of "man living in harmony with nature." The Association will play a major role in restoring Rock Cliff Farm so that it becomes a living legacy of the environmental ethics of B.W. Wells and a source of inspiration to future conservationists.*

**"Man living in harmony with nature." - B.W. Wells**

Visit the B.W. Wells  
Association web site at:  
[www.bwwells.org](http://www.bwwells.org)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Pamela A. Andrejev - FAMILY  
Linda and Ernie Baker - FAMILY  
A.J. Bullard  
Philip and Janet Burton - FAMILY  
Monika Coleman  
Helen Croghan  
Speed and Barbara Massenburg - FAMILY  
Joseph & Carol Paulonis - FAMILY  
Berenda Ray  
Amy Sawyer & Teri Bowling - FAMILY  
Fran Shapiro  
Larry Early

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Dan Petretich  
Mary Petretich  
Johnny Randall

**CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Falls Lake Photography Club - Bob Jackson

**B.W. WELLS ASSOCIATION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President - John Pelosi  
Vice President - Johnny Randall  
Treasurer - Bill Williams  
Secretary - Jean McCamy  
Committee Chair - Earl Creutzburg

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jeff Adolphsen (Buildings)  
Jean Harrison (Archiving)  
Patty Ray (Archiving)  
Earl Creutzburg (Education)  
Vacant (Ways and Means)  
Jimmy Ray (Membership)  
Liz Ford  
Hugh Nourse (Grounds)  
Fran Shapiro  
Larry Early

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Margaret Pridgen, Ken Moore, Benson Kirkman  
Brian Bockhahn (Newsletter)

*Rock Cliff Farm is open for  
**guided tours only.**  
See [web calendar](#) for dates.*