

President's Message

I thought our previous Heritage Days were highly successful but none can compare with Heritage Day 2007, held on March 31 at Rock Cliff Farm. You will read the details in Brian's report that follows. Let me just say that the interest shown this year was incredibly rewarding to those of us who have been working hard to revitalize the B.W. Wells Association.

I spent most of my time talking with countless people who came to Heritage Day. They seemed to fall into one of three main groups: those who had never heard of Dr. Wells or Rock Cliff Farm and who were astounded by what they saw and learned; those who had visited before, are supporters and members and who are encouraged by the changes they saw and the progress we are making and finally those who knew Dr. Wells and Maude when they were young and who had experienced the farm and who told us their stories helping us to fill in more of the history.

Brian Bockhahn organized and ran the event with his usual but extraordinary competence. Association members Hugh Nourse, Johnny Randall, Ken Moore and Earl Creutzburg conducted tours all day long. Debbie Ludas helped with the games for kids. Bill Williams collected new memberships and donations and Liz Ford was our "point person" who sent people in the right direction and provided them with helpful information. Jimmy Ray served as jack of all trades, helping with parking, games, tour information and using the rented golf cart to take people who were challenged physically on special tours.

Liz, Hugh, Bill and I spent a few more hours helping Brian clear the trails and otherwise help to make the sight more attractive. It was a highly successful Heritage Day.

We are making progress on our goals for this year.

- Johnny Randall has donated a significant number of native plants from the NC Botanical Garden
- Hugh Nourse has planted them (On one wildflower tour Johnny said, "Oh look, we can tell what this flower is. It still has the tag!")
- Jean McCamy has recruited a potential publisher for our book-in-progress entitled "Natural Gardens of Rock Cliff Farm"
- Earl is developing new, more detailed brochures for self-guided tours
- Hugh is working on replacing the information display cases at the farm
- Jimmy Ray has mounted a campaign to encourage past members to rejoin
- Hugh, Earl and I are planning to schedule a series of presentations about B. W. Wells and Rock Cliff Farm for campers at the Wells Camping Area
- North Carolina has approved our application for Rock Cliff Farm to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are awaited news from the federal government.

If you have any suggestions for us please let us know. If you would like to volunteer to work on any of our projects you will be welcome!

John Pelosi, President
johnwpelosi@earthlink.net

Upcoming Events

May 5 - Saturday
Field Trip to B.W. Wells Savannah

June 2 - Saturday
National Trails Day Volunteer work 9 a.m. Tour at 1 p.m.

June 6 - Wednesday
Tarheel Ecologist: B.W. Wells Workshop. Six hour educators workshop 9 - 4.

June 7 - Thursday
B.W. Wells Association visit to D.H. Hill Library to view Exhibit, 730 p.m.

July 21 - Saturday
B.W. Wells History Hike, 10 a.m.

September -16 Sunday
Annual Meeting, 1 p.m.

Sign up for programs at 919-676-1027 or [email](#).

Check the [web site](#) for up to date information and learn how to request guided tours of Rock Cliff Farm.

Heritage Day

Wow! Blame the beautiful weather, more advertising or just increased interest for our best attended Heritage Day event at Rock Cliff Farm!

More than 500 people showed up throughout the day to enjoy the tours, trails and activities. My heartfelt thanks to the thirteen volunteers who were essential to the days success.

A total of 25 tours were conducted on topics including B.W. Wells, Geology, Wildflowers, Zeagle's Rock and a special presentation on hog farming.



A final thanks to Weyerhaeuser, the Triangle Chapter of the Society of Foresters and the NC State Forestry Extension office, for again providing us with free tree seedlings commemorating Arbor Day. How fitting to have free Green Ash trees!



Kids enjoyed the many activities such as the scavenger hunt, pine needle painting and the kids ecology hike. Our thanks to the excellent park

staff of Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

Both canoe tours were full and participants were treated to calm water and beautiful sunny skies. The temperature was perfect, cool enough for hiking and warm enough for a paddle! Thanks to Paddle Creek for once again donating the use of their canoes, paddles and life jackets. And thanks to Park Ranger Andrew Chilton for the third year leading the float trips!

The NC Botanical Gardens brought out plants for a free raffle which was highly anticipated. The last two raffles of the day had as many as 100 people hoping for their number to be called! Nearly everyone grabbed a wildflower of the year seed packet as well.

We received several new members in the individual and family categories, and the donation jar nearly runneth' over!

Of course, a huge thanks to the B.W. Wells Association, providing assistance with tours, parking, booths and activities.

**Mark your calendars for the
5th annual B.W. Wells Heritage Day
Saturday March 29, 2008!**



To solve the parking problem, a six person golf cart was rented for use as a shuttle and for driving tours!



Tarheel Ecologist Workshop

A few months ago I designed a six hour educator workshop to honor B.W. Wells and his love of ecology, botany and Rock Cliff Farm. The workshop incorporates the tours and activities held at our Heritage Day.

The intent of the workshop is to teach educators from all walks about B.W. Wells, and encourage them to think ecologically, appreciate nature and incorporate this methodology into their classroom. Participants have the option to return with their class or organized group to show what they've learned.

On March 5, 2007, B.W. Wells 126th anniversary of his birth, the first workshop was held. A total of nine state and county park staff were in attendance. They were taken on guided tours, experimented with pine needle paint brushing and much, much more. The temperatures were cool, but between the hiking and hot chocolate the day was perfect.

The workshop is accredited for the NC State Park System as an "Advanced Interpretive Training". This means state park staff from across North Carolina gain credit hours for attending.

The workshop is also still pending approval as a component I workshop of the NC Environmental Education Certification Program. This recognition would bring educators from schools, parks and museums from across the state to gain credit towards their certification.

I am still pursuing grants for the printing of an official workshop booklet and other materials for participants. Eventually sections will be accessible on line as PDF files for all to enjoy.

Though designed for educators, the workshop is free and open to anyone. I will try to offer it three times a year in March, June and September. Visit the web site [calendar](#) to see the 2007 dates and find out how to sign up.

Attention Educators

You can now request programs from our web site. Tours of Rock Cliff Farm, children's activities and outreach programs are available with advance notice. Visit the web site, fill out and send in the request form. There are plenty of tour and activity options to suit your needs.

State Of The Grounds

If you haven't been to Rock Cliff Farm lately, you have missed a few changes.

We now have a **picnic area** complete with four picnic tables, a cooking grill and trash cans. Located right next to the parking area it will serve us well during our volunteer work days and at the Heritage Day Event. It will also be used as an outdoor classroom for programs, lectures and the new workshop.

Hog farming is another unique niche in the history of Rock Cliff Farm. To create a new **Hog Farming Tour** for Heritage

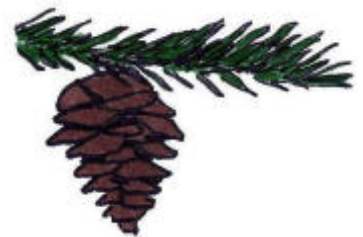


Day, educational restoration projects have begun on the smokehouse and Ray piggery. These projects include a scalding vat, troughs, hog pen, salt box and a myriad of other accoutrements. Together they showcase the entire hog farming practice conducted by care taker David Ray in the 1950's.

Thanks to Jimmy Ray and Falls Lake Maintenance Mechanic Mike Parker for their input into the hog farm operating procedures.

To learn more, attend the next Hog Farming Tour at the annual meeting on September 16, or the March 29, 2008 Heritage Day!

The cold snap, rain and heavy winds have left Rock Cliff Farm relatively unharmed. An upcoming casualty will be the **Hackberry** tree behind the Smoke-



house. Over 90 years old and already recognized as a Wake County Capitol Tree, it will be difficult to lose it, but the trunk is badly rotten and it's death is unavoidable.

Other projects in the works are display cases, new wayside exhibits and historical research on the Mangum Terraces. Several trail projects include steps and embankment stabilization on the Wildflower Trail.

National Trails Day is June 2, If you would like to volunteer for this or other projects email or visit our web site at www.bwwells.org.

**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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allen and Ellen Beidler - Family
Will & Fran Cape - Family
Rick Carter
Spence & Kathy Grosvenor - Family
Audry A. Heatwole
Kenneth R. Mizelle
Candis B. & Lloyd Owens - Family
Marianne M. Powell
Sharon Spangler & Gerald Pottern - Family
Carolyn H. Wyland

What Would You Call It? Heritage Day Winners:

0-8 Years of age:

Plant A: **Emily Marciano** (7) "Birdnest Grass"

Plant B: **Thomas Bruhn** (3) "Sour Flower"

8 years and older:

Plant A: **Emily Berrier** (9) "Furry Possums Cattail"

Plant B: **Laura Hiatt** (11) "Pink Ladle"

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)

Jean McCamy

Earl Creutzburg (Education)

Vacant (Ways and Means)

Jimmy Ray (Membership)

Liz Ford

Hugh Nourse (Grounds)

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.*