



B.W. Wells Association

Rock Cliff Farm Quarterly

Winter 2006

Newsletter: Brian Bockhahn

Incoming President's Message

The B. W. Wells Association has had a great year in 2006. Some of the highlights for the year include:

- Heritage Day was a huge success despite the annual rain that always seems to come on the same day.
- The Memorandum of Agreement which legitimizes our close working relationship with Falls Lake Recreation Area has been approved.
- The application for nomination of Rock Cliff Farm to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places is almost completed and will be reviewed in February.
- We have gained several new members including many Life Members.
- Our Annual Meeting was attended by about 65 people including members of the Native Plant Society. The program included a presentation by Jimmy Ray about growing up on Rock Cliff Farm with "Uncle Bert" and "Aunt Maude", door prizes of native plants donated by the NC Botanical garden and trail hikes and tours of the grounds.
- Brian Bockhahn has completed the design of a six hour AIT Workshop entitled B. W. Wells: Nature's Champion.
- The historic outhouse was restored by Bill Williams and placed on its original site by Bill and Hughen Nourse!!

We are grateful to outgoing officers Hughen Nourse, our president for the past two years, Richard Lane, our treasurer, and Margaret Pridgen, our secretary. Each has spent many hours working on behalf of the Association. Hughen continues on the Board as Director of Grounds, and Margaret joins the elite group of Association Consultants which includes Benson Kirkman and Ken Moore.

We welcome Liz Ford to the Association Board. Liz is a long-time Master Gardener with many skills including the ability to get things done, so we are very pleased to have her working with us!

The purpose of the Association is to educate people about B. W. Wells and his contributions; and to promote his environmental ethics. We work with the

Falls Lake State Recreation Area to preserve Rock Cliff Farm and to restore and interpret the unique natural resources located there.

As more and more land is given over to development our task becomes increasingly important. Places like Rock Cliff Farm become more and more sacred.

We have determined our set of goals for the coming year, 2007. Each of these projects fits the purpose of the Association. The goals include:

- Developing the education/interpretation program to reach larger audiences
- Completing and publishing the booklet entitled "The Natural History of Rock Cliff Farm"
- Continuing to develop alliances and partnerships with organizations that have similar goals and interests
- Identifying native plants flooded out by the lake and restoring as many of them as possible
- Replacing/rebuilding informational display cases at Rock Cliff Farm
- Producing an updated B. W. Wells Association brochure

Membership in volunteer organizations like our Association includes two main types. The first type consists of members who support us through their continued membership. They pay dues, make additional donations, attend events and are there to support the organization when needed. The second type consists of those who do everything the first group does but also take a more active role in the organization. They join committees and help to do the work.

Any organization needs both.

Our Association is now at the point where we need help from the second type of volunteer to develop our programs to preserve, restore and interpret the uniqueness of Rock Cliff Farm. If you are in a position to act as a type two member, and I know not everyone is, please let us know. We will gladly involve you in the work and fun of furthering our objectives.

John Pelosi, President



Annual Meeting

About 60 members and guests, including 13 from the Native Plant Society, attended the Annual Meeting of the B.W. Wells Association on September 17, 2006, at Rock Cliff Farm. Board member **Jimmy Ray** hosted a “pig pickin” served by Holden Barbecue from 1 to 2 p.m. and Margaret Pridgen added persimmon pudding to the dessert table.

The business meeting was called to order by Hugh Nourse, President, who welcomed the group and introduced the Plant Society members. He reported on the past year’s activities which included obtaining a Memorandum of Agreement with the Parks Department, a survey of the property, and application for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Treasurer’s Report showed \$5149.69 in the checking and savings accounts and \$38,000 in CDs.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of officers and directors, elected by acclamation following a motion by Dan Petretich, seconded by Connie Nourse.

President – John Pelosi
Vice-President – Johnny Randall
Treasurer – Bill Williams
Secretary – Jean McCamy
Directors: Jeff Adolphsen, Liz Ford, Jean Harrison, and Hugh Nourse.

The officers will serve two year terms; the directors, three. Other directors are Joel Bailey, Earl Creutzburg, Jimmy Ray and Patty Ray. Brian Bockhahn will continue to attend board meetings in an Ex-officio capacity and Margaret Pridgen joins Benson Kirkman and Ken Moore on the Advisory Board.

Newly elected President John Pelosi (pictured right) thanked Hugh Nourse (pictured left) for all he did for the organization during his two-year term, and talked about plans for the next few years including encouraging more active member participation.



Jimmy Ray recalled experiences growing up at Rock Cliff Farm where his father was caretaker. “Uncle Bert”, as Jimmy calls B.W. Wells, was a mentor and friend to all the Ray children and even, at the age of 91, served as Best Man at Jimmy and Alice Ray’s wedding.



Ken Moore and his wife raffled off a number of native plants selected by Johnny Randall from the collection at the N.C. Botanical Garden.

The group broke up into smaller groups for tours: the B.W. Wells History Tours of the farm led by Brian Bockhahn and Jimmy Ray, a Geology Tour led by Hugh Nourse, a Wildflower Tour led by Earl Creutzburg, and a visit to the studio where several of B.W. Wells paintings were on display.

Jean McCamy - secretary



The always popular plant giveaways courtesy of the North Carolina Botanical Gardens.

HOLDEN'S BARBECUE

& CATERING SERVICE

Phone: 919-556-3607
Fax: 919-556-6530

Neil Holden
holdenbbq@aol.com

Update of the grounds

Many thanks to Bill Williams for completely Re-building the outhouse. After fifty years, the old outhouse by the Wells' house fell into disrepair this past winter. Falls Lake superintendent Scott Kershner allowed the Association to remove the old structure for replacement.



Using the old structure as a guide, Bill Re-built a new outhouse with a finished product that looked authentic. John Pelosi and Hugh Nourse helped with the delivery, but they gave Bill the honor of it's first seating. It is, however, and shall remain inoperable.

The honeybees are gone! Not long after our last newsletter, Falls Lake State Recreation Area brought out a bee removal expert with a giant vacuum that sucked all of the bees out of the wall of the caretaker's house. Unharmed, the entire swarm was given to a beekeeper for safe keeping.

Volunteers from Brownie Troop 131 came out on October 1st to help plant wildflowers along the rock wall. John Pelosi donated some eastern columbine and blue-eyed grass for the project.



Mark your calendars:

**3rd annual
B.W. Wells Heritage Day
Saturday March 31, 2007
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Bigleaf Snowbell

Okay, we all felt a little guilty at the annual meeting when A.J. Bullard of the Native Plant Society informed us of a few corrections to our labeled trees at Rock Cliff Farm. A wrong scientific name was understandable, but a tree in the cemetery marked as an Alternate-leaved Dogwood was actually a Bigleaf Snowbell, *Styrax Grandifolius*.



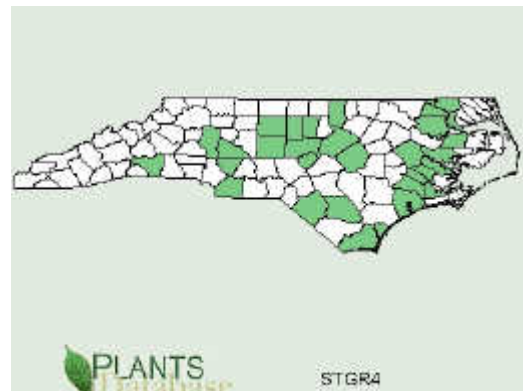
Snowbell grows as a shrub or small tree with rounded crown, with large, nearly round leaves, and showy bell-shaped, white flowers. It can grow up to a height up to twenty feet. Leaves are broadly elliptical to nearly round, abruptly short-pointed at tip; and not toothed or with few teeth. They are dark green and hairless or nearly so



above, paler and usually densely coated with gray, tiny, star-shaped hairs beneath.. The bark is dark gray and smooth.

The white flowers are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide with five long, narrow, white corolla lobes, and are short-stalked and fragrant. The fruit is $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6 mm) in diameter; rounded, hairy, brown, hard and dry. The fruit is one large seed maturing in late summer and autumn and remaining closed. Habitat is moist or wet soils of valleys and uplands, and in the under story of hardwood forests.

The genus name, from the Greek, is that of the European relative, Storax (*Styrax officinalis* L.). That species yields the resin known as storax, used as incense.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Biven Andersen
B.R. Dick Andersen
Pamela Andrejev
Charles and Suzanne Cascio
Sarah Compton
Tom and Gayle Draney
Marilyn Gordon
Sig Hutchinson
Mark and Mary Kate Keth
Mr. and Mrs. David Martin

Robert Melvin
Mart and Stu Pattison
Bob and Sandy Peckham
Dan and Mary Petretich
Tal Phillips
Alice Ray (LIFE)
Tripp Jagger (LIFE)
Eugene and Frances Shapiro
Sherry Thompson (LIFE)
Wake Forest Garden Club (Sponsor Organization)



DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Dear Friends of Maude and Bert Wells,

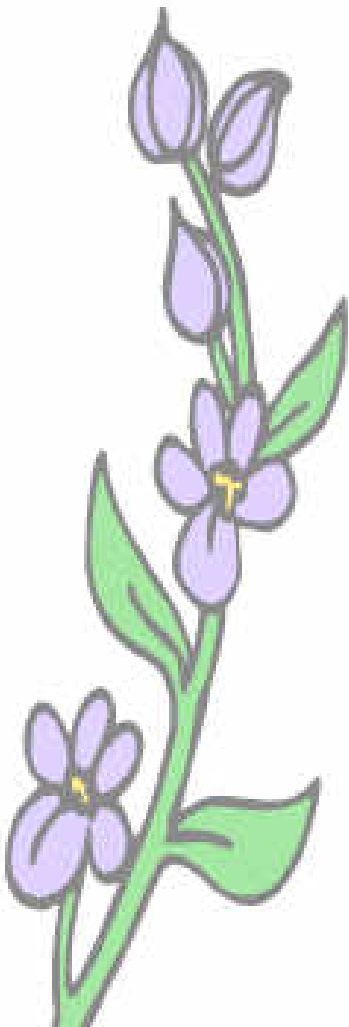
As you have read in the President's Message, we believe we have accomplished several important goals this year. We are also very well positioned to accomplish even more in 2007.

Rock Cliff Farm is the perfect spot for educational and interpretive programs sponsored by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation and the B. W. Wells Association.

Will you please consider sending your tax deductible donation to the B. W. Wells Association? Any amount will be greatly appreciated and will further the work of Bert and Maude and Wells.

Please send donations to:
B. W. Wells Association
P.O. Box 1901
Wake Forest NC 27588

Sincerely,
John Pelosi
President



**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

HELP NEEDED...

If you have any information about the following, please contact Brian Bockhahn at 676-1027, or email cbockhahn4@earthlink.net

Naming of Zeagle's Rock
Moonshine Trail rock markers
History of John Davis pre-1800's
History of Wyatt Mangum 1800-1900
Lowery home sites
Pet Cemetery information
BW's painting locations

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.*