



## President's Message

Heritage Day is just around the corner on March 29. You should plan to attend again this year or make it your first trip. On Wednesday March 12, over a dozen association members helped clean the trails, clean the studio, repair and replace some of the signage and otherwise make the place ready for you. Earl Creutzburg gave each of them a green hat designating them as volunteers of the B. W. Wells Association.



If you do come, you will see that the porch on the Wells' house has been repaired. You will have a chance to walk inside Wells's studio, examine the fireplace and chimney while standing inside rather than peering through the window and experience the setting in which Dr. Wells engaged in painting. Kids will have a chance to participate in our traditional games as well as some new games. Dr. Chris Tacker, geologist from the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, will work with Hugh Nourse on the geology tours. It will be a wonderful chance to experience Rockcliff Farm, the retirement home of Dr. Wells and Maude, a natural environment made more special because of their living on the land for 24 years.

We are making progress on the projects I've announced in previous messages, though things always take longer than I want them to take. We are on the verge of accepting a bid for display cases. Johnny Randall has started several thousand seedlings at the NC Botanical Garden designated for the farm. We are making progress on the book about the natural history of Rockcliff Farm.

So come out on Heritage Day. Enjoy the tours, the wildflowers, and the natural beauty of the place. Enjoy being part of our effort to preserve and protect Rockcliff Farm.

John Pelosi, President,  
B. W. Wells Association



## Upcoming Events

- March 29 - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
B.W. Wells Heritage Day
- April 29 - 8 p.m.  
Group Camp Storytelling
- May 3 - 10 a.m.  
\*\*Life Member Boat Tour\*\*
- May 10 - 8 p.m.  
Group Camp B.W. Wells Program
- June 7 - 9 a.m. - noon  
Adopt a Highway Clean Up Day
- June 7 - 10:30 a.m. - noon  
Coastal Land Trust Tour of  
B.W. Wells Savannah

To sign up visit the web site at [www.bwwells.org](http://www.bwwells.org) or [email](mailto:).



## New Campfire Story

Now available by request and scheduled for the group camp, is a new series of stories for kids of all ages.

Kids will be selected from the audience to help "tell" the story by playing certain roles.

One story is about the creation of Falls Lake, and another tells about the life and times of B.W. Wells.

The date is April 29th at 8 p.m. at the amphitheater by camp site 10.

## Heritage Day

We are geared up for our fifth annual Heritage Day on March 29. Many new and old faces will be present to lead tours, talks and hikes.

The kids area of pine needle painting, “what would you call it?” and the scavenger hunt will be expanded and also include a new clay making craft led by Fran Shapiro.

The Ecology hikes have expanded to include the whole family. Wildflower and Geology hikes will continue as before, and the hourly history hikes will continue to be a staple.

Paddle Creek has again agreed to donate use of their canoes, paddles and life jackets. Let’s keep hopes up for sun instead of sleet.

My hog farming tour was well received last year and will be offered again as a special tour one time only. See our new restoration projects on the piggery and smokehouse.



Plant raffles, seed giveaways and other exhibits will keep you busy in between tours.

Visit the web at [www.bwwells.org/hday](http://www.bwwells.org/hday) for more info, and I hope to see you there.

Watch for new items at this year’s Heritage Day, including note cards, paintings and T-shirts!!!



## Wildflower Plan

Johnny Randall and Hugh Nourse have created a Wildflower Restoration Plan for Rock Cliff Farm. Johnny has already put to seed thousands of plants native to the farm including columbine, sunflower, lobelia and Fire Pink, *Silene virginica*!



We were hoping to conduct a controlled burn of the north facing slopes, but the burn ban throughout winter forced us to wait another year.

The plants should be ready for planting in the fall, possibly by the annual meeting. Volunteer planting days may be scheduled, so watch out for email updates.

## Low Water Paddling



John Pelosi kayaking through the “Rock House” just south of Zeagle’s Rock. This formation is only visible when the lake level is below 244 msl.

## Volunteer Work Day

On March 12, over a dozen volunteers came out for a work day around the farm. A large contingent tackled the studio clean-up to prepare it for walk-in tours on Heritage Day. Jimmy Ray was present, educating all of us on the studio and B.W.'s use of it.

Several folks helped clear and prune the trails, pick up the grounds and replace markers on the Zeagle's Rock Self Guided Trail. Recent storms knocked several trees and limbs over the trails.

Some bulbs were planted and several tour leaders were there scouting things out. Thanks to all of those who volunteered and who kept the longest running tradition of the Association alive - trail work and picnics on the farm!



## Adopt a Highway

The Association has just sent up paperwork for adopting Bent Road from Bud Morris Road to its end at Rock Cliff Farm. Though not a highly traveled road, it does see its share of roadside litter.

Help us clean up on one of our four scheduled clean up days annually. Orange traffic vests, trash sticks and bags will be provided.

Our Adopt a Highway sign should be placed out this spring, welcoming all travellers coming down SR 1919, Bent Road.

## Workshop Inspiration

On March 5, 2008, B.W. Wells 124th birthday, I conducted my third educator's workshop. I had my limit of 15 educators ranging from government employees to teachers to retired professionals.

We were met with beautiful weather with sunny skies and 60 degree temperatures. The N.C. Botanical Gardens again supplied me with plants to give away as awards for the various activities.

We started with a word search and moved on to B.W. Wells' history and then tour. Before lunch they tried their hands at pine needle painting, awarding another plant to the best painting.

After a picnic lunch on the farm, we played the "What would you call it?" activity awarding additional plants to those who made the best guesses for mystery nature items.

After a full ecology hike visiting four different habitats on the farm, we made our way out to Zeagle's Rock along the self guided trail. The Resurrection Fern was not doing as well on the rock, as opposed to the trees around the caretaker house.

With field work finished we played one more game for a final prize, and I gave my finishing speech. Being the third time for the workshop I was finally getting it the way I liked it, and the conclusion made us all feel inspired.

I asked what would B.W. Wells think if he were alive today? Of course he would be upset over the loss of the longleaf pine forest, endangered species, and I'm sure the rate of urban sprawl would make him gasp.

But **imagine his surprise** to see the B.W. Wells Savannah, protected and named in his honor, a remnant of his most beautiful natural garden. **Imagine his pride** in what other land HAS been protected and how many conservation groups work towards this goal. **Imagine his realization** of his hopes and dreams as the nation has become more aware of the environment. **Imagine his joy** as he sees the scientific community not only teaching ecologically, but all of us thinking and living more ecologically.

Man is not quite living in harmony with nature, but we sure are several strides closer today, and mostly heading in the right direction!

# 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

### *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)

**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.

## 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

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### ADVISORY BOARD

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

***Rock Cliff Farm is open for  
guided tours only.***

See [web calendar](#) for dates.