



2008 Heritage Day Report

It may not have been the biggest turnout we have had but the 200 plus people who attended Heritage Day this year on March 29 were a dedicated, enthusiastic group. They had to be, given the stop and start rain we had all day. There was much gratitude for the three tents set up to protect the participants. The new front porch on the Wells house was also a convenient source of shelter.

Even better was the staffing for Heritage Day this year. Liz Ford headed the committee to plan for and staff all association driven activities including set up and take down, providing information about Rockcliff Farm and membership and providing refreshments. Several members volunteered to work with board members not only to staff the tables but to help get the farm ready for Heritage Day. This year it meant not only clearing the trails but also cleaning the studio which was opened for the event for the first time.

Members Pamela Andrejev, Mary and Dan Petretich, Joe and Carol Paulonis, Amy Sawyer, Terri Bowling joined all our board members to clean, staff the tables, help with the children's games and direct traffic. Fran Shapiro developed her own children's game of making pinch pots out of "natural" clay. Ken Moore, Hugh Nourse, and John Pelosi led the different tours. Hugh led his geology tours with Dr. Chris Tacker, geologist from the Museum of Natural Sciences. Jimmy Ray, Patty Ray and Jean Harrison provided interpretive history inside the studio. We have never been better organized for the event and our experience this year will make us ready for the crowds we expect next year when the weather will be much improved!

Brian Bockhahn again was the chief architect for the day, recruiting several of his colleagues and friends to carry out children's activities and canoe tours and leading some of the tours himself, especially his tour of several exhibits he has made to depict the entire process of "hog farming". We also had a free native plant raffle generously provided by the NC Botanical Garden.



John Pelosi, President,
B. W. Wells Association



Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 21. 1 p.m.

B.W. Wells Annual Meeting

September 30 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

B.W. Wells : "Tarheel Ecologist"
Teacher Workshop

October 11 SATURDAY - 8:00 p.m.

B.W. Wells group camp program

October 18 SATURDAY - 8:00 p.m.

B.W. Wells group camp storytelling

To sign up or learn more visit the web site at www.bwwells.org or email.



Maybe we should start selling umbrellas at Heritage Day!

Annual Meeting September 21

Mark your calendars for our annual meeting scheduled for **Sunday, September 21, 2008**. We will likely have the same format as two years previously in that we'll get Jimmy Ray and his team to do a pig pickin' for lunch, followed by board and committee reports, elections, an interesting presentation, and hikes around the farm. It is a member's only event but one can join the association that day.



Watch for new items at this year's Annual Meeting, including note cards, paintings and T-shirts!!!

MOA Renewed

The B. W. Wells Association has been approved as a "Friends Group" of the Falls Lake State Recreation Area for another year, for the period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

This agreement provides official recognition of the association's desire to work with the recreation area in developing, maintaining and interpreting the natural and cultural history of the B. W. Wells home site, Rockcliff Farm.

It also permits the association to raise funds and make other contributions for the betterment of Falls Lake Recreation Area. Installing attractive, professional looking display cases, repairing the porch on the Wells house and making other repairs and improvements are some of our contributions.

John Pelosi

Membership Expired??
Renew Today - [click here](#)

Display Cases Ready To Install

Rockcliff Farm will soon show off eleven professional display cases to replace the wooden cases which have seen better days. Earl Creutzberg ordered them from Pannier Graphics, which supplies display cases to both State and Federal Parks. We will now have them at Rockcliff Farm, part of the Falls Lake State Recreation Area. The cases will display a variety of information about B. W. Wells and his wife Maude, about the farm, its history, and about other special features.

The purchase of the cases by the B. W. Wells Association was generously supported by the Home and Neighborhood Sponsors (HANDS) with a grant of \$1500. Each case cost approximately \$500 so the association is considering a fund raising project wherein individuals or groups could sponsor a case for its cost and have their name or a name of their choosing inscribed on case. A person or group could dedicate a display case in the memory of someone, for example. More information about this will be provided in the future.



Brian Bockhahn has prepared displays for four of the cases and has plans for the others. The cases will be placed in the ground as soon as weather and resources permit. Bill Williams got a friend to use his gas powered auger to attempt one installation but the ground was too dry and the operation was not successful.

John Pelosi

Elizabeth Reid Murray Visit

Elizabeth Reid Murray, well known historian and author of "Wake, Capital County of North Carolina, VOLUME I: Prehistory through Centennial" had a birthday wish for her 83rd. It was to visit Ziegler's Rock and revisit Rockcliff Farm where she had spent many happy hours meeting with B. W. Wells and Maude and picnicking with her family.

She contacted John Pelosi and visited the B. W. Wells website to set up a tour. John and Hugh Nourse met Mrs. Murray, one of her daughters and one of her sons and two grand kids for the visit on



June 14th. It was as rich an experience for John and Hugh as it may have been for Mrs. Murray and her family as we were told about many stories and experiences during her visits on the farm. Among

her many photographs is one of the best pictures of Ziegler's Rock I have ever seen. It shows her children on a path beneath the rock and it shows how narrow the river was at that time.

John Pelosi

Programs Presented

Hugh Nourse, ably assisted by Earl Creutzberg and John Pelosi gave a Power Point presentation about B. W. Wells and Rockcliff Farm to 29 campers at the B. W. Wells Group Campsite at Falls Lake State Recreation Area on Saturday night, May 10. Two groups included a Carolina Friends group from Durham and a Boy Scout troop.

We all know Hugh to be a great presenter and this night was no exception. After concluding his presentation the audience encouraged him to continue which he did willingly by discoursing about the unique geology of the area. The only downside to his extended talk was that the gate to the area was locked when we got to it after 8 p.m!



Ranger Brian Bockhahn conducted his first campfire storytelling program at the B.W. Wells Group Camp on April 29. The weather forecast caused many campers to leave early, but all 90 plus remaining girl and cub scouts were in attendance.

After roasting some marshmallows the group was entertained with three stories about Falls Lake and B.W. Wells. Dozens of kids volunteered to help tell the stories on stage, while the entire audience was able to participate and add sound effects!

The stories were so well received that two groups have already requested a guided tour of Rock Cliff Farm to learn more about the site and B.W. Wells.

The group camp programs will continue each spring and fall, tapping into a ready audience of campers that regularly fill all 14 camp sites on the weekends.

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

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

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, website)

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

See [web calendar](#) for dates.