

## Another Successful Heritage Day

Brian Bockhahn and the B. W. Wells Association held another successful Heritage Day on March 28 and the rain held off until around 4 pm. The predicted weather was, of course, terrible but none-the-less Brian counted our visitors at 148.

Liz Ford recruited a number of Master Gardener Volunteers to help clean the grounds, the trails and the studio the week before the event. She also got them to plant four flats of wildflowers donated by the NC Botanical Garden. Our Vice President Johnny Randall arranged for us to receive the wildflowers for planting as well as several wildflowers to be raffled off at Heritage Day.

Chris Tacker, Ken Moore and Hugh Nourse guided several tour groups around the trails describing geology and pointing out wildflowers. We were again fortunate to have Dana Fitz-Simons, Fran Shapiro and Jennifer Phelps leading the children in games and painting.

Jean McCamy and Pamela Andrejev organized and staffed our membership table. Mary and Dan Petretich and Carol and Joe Paulonis took turns staffing the table as well. This year we had a chance to show off our newly published book about B. W. Wells at Rockcliff Farm as well as the Tee shirts and replicas of Wells' painting of Zeagle's Rock

Jimmy Ray, his family and friends provided us with a hot lunch for which all of us were grateful. Probably the only disappointment was that the rain prevented Brian from leading his tour demonstrating how to turn pigs into pork, from the slaughter site to the smoke house.

Thanks to all who helped make our Heritage Day another great one!

John Pelosi, President,



## July 25 Canoe Tour & Picnic

A canoe/Kayak trip and picnic is planned for members on July 25! We can accommodate 20 canoes, reservations are **REQUIRED**. Bring your own lunch, ice will be provided. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or we can pursue group rental of canoes. Tour is free to members, memberships can be taken on site.

We will meet at the "Shoreline" campsite inside the Shinleaf Recreation Area at 9:30 am to launch. We will paddle upstream along the remote south shore of Rock Cliff Farm up to Zeagles Rock, then around "Wyatts Bend" of the Neuse River and the Shinleaf peninsula. We will return to Shinleaf for a picnic lunch and then either hike the trails there or continue paddling.

To sign up for this unique and exciting tour contact Hugh Nourse at 556-0799 or email [hughen27@aol.com](mailto:hughen27@aol.com).



## Annual Meeting September 20

Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting at Rockcliff Farm on Sunday September 20. Jimmy and Alice Ray have been very generous in past meetings to provide a lunch for all members. The NC Botanical Garden has provided native plants for a free raffle. Progress reports and election of Board members and officers is part of the program concluded with a keynote address.

## **Board considers moving Heritage Day Date**

It is common knowledge for all who have attended that the weather for Heritage Day is usually terrible. It seems we have had one really good day in six years. Other days have been rainy, cold, sometimes with snow or hail or both. As a result, the board is considering ways to increase opportunities for members to take advantage of the nature preserve which is Rockcliff Farm.

Hugh Nourse has expanded his Education Committee to explore this issue. It is true that different wild flowers bloom throughout the year so visiting it more than once a year will offer different views. Family picnics, tours led by artists, photographers and different naturalists are under consideration. If you have ideas for the committee please email them to Hugh at [hughen27@aol.com](mailto:hughen27@aol.com).

## **Wake County Historical Society plan picnic at Rock Cliff Farm**

Bill Howard, President and Diana Mauney, Vice President are working with the association board to schedule a picnic and program to the membership of the Wake County Historical Society. Scheduled for September, association board members will present on different topics including describing the historic nature of the building architecture, wildflower revitalization programs and tours of the property.

## **BOOK SALES AIL, HELP!**

Sales of our book "The Natural Gardens of Rockcliff Farm, Home of B. W. Wells" have been very slow. Thanks to Jean McCamy the book is for sale at a number of Wake Forest stores including the Cotton Company, NC Specialty Shops, C & G Printing, and other locations. It also is available at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and the NC Botanical Garden.

We thought we had someone on the board willing to take on the task of marketing the book but discovered this was not the case. We NEED someone to step forward to take on this challenge.

## **More Flowers On the Farm**

Association Vice President Johnny Randall gifted the association with a full flat of Wells' favorite wildflower, silene virginica (Fire Pink). Johnny and the NC Botanical Garden where he is an Assistant Director have been very generous in supplying the association with wildflower seedlings, including earlier gifts of olumbine, Sun Drops and others.



Liz Ford, Director for Grounds and Hugh Nourse, Education Director planted the flowers, some with the help of Wake County Master Gardeners. One of our continuing experiences is that between feeding the deer and the mowing machines many of our plantings simply disappear. So this time Liz and Hugh protected the plants with old fencing to prevent the deer from eating them and stakes to show the mowers where the flowers were planted.

## **Display panels**

Vickie Cumbee has been working very hard to complete the design of twelve displays for our new display cases. She is the art director for NC Wildlife Magazine and her considerable talents are obvious in what she has put together for the displays. It is hoped that the designs will be completed, approved by State Parks and Recreation officials and installed by our Annual Meeting in September.

## **Membership**

Analysis of our membership roster shows that we have 128 current members. Several of these memberships are Family memberships so that means we actually have many more than the 128 on the list. We are fortunate to continue to attract new members many of which are family memberships.

## Rock Cliff Notebook: June

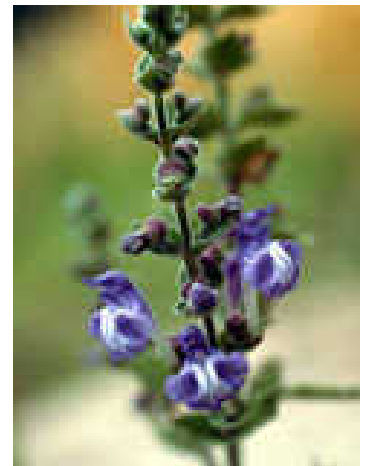
A quite different selection of wildflowers is blooming in June. Unlike the spring ephemerals that live in the shade of the hardwoods and which we see at Heritage Day, these are the sunlovers. In the ditch alongside the roadway, near the entrance gate, are a mass of ox-eye daisies, *Leucanthemum vulgare* that contrast vividly with the yellow sundrops, *Oenothera fruticosa* growing beside them.



Near the house we find wild petunia, *Ruellia humilis* growing in the lawn, bravely peering above the mowing level. One wonders how they survive. Beside the rock wall a couple of sprigs of the iconic firepink, *Silene virginica* bloom in brilliant red. At the edge of the woods, Dr. Wells planted a bottlebrush buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora* that is not native to this area, but it is such an eye catcher that it is worth seeing. The bud stalks are long thin sticks, but when the blossoms open they resemble a large butterfly bush, that is a magnet for Lepidoptera, butterflies and moths.



Along the trails, the yellow stargrass, *Hypoxis hirsuta* is shining its yellow glow near Soapstone Cove. Incidentally, the water level in Falls Lake is so high that Soapstone Point is almost submerged.. Further along the trail, there is Skullcap, *Scutellaria ovata* shyly reaching for sunlight. And the pink ladyslipper orchid, *Cypripedium acaule* has thrust its leaves above the surface at last, though it is not in bloom. It must have been delayed by the cooler temperatures we experienced this spring.



# 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 - Hugh Nourse

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Adolphsen (Buildings)  
Hugh Nourse (Education)  
Fran Shapiro (Archiving)  
Vicky Cumbee (Education)  
Vacant (Ways and Means)  
Jimmy Ray (Membership)  
Liz Ford (Grounds)  
Amy Sawyer  
Larry Earley

### 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.