



MADISON-MORGAN CONSERVANCY

Educating, Preserving, Conserving Morgan County

NEWSLETTER
WINTER, 2009—2010

A WATERSHED MOMENT

2009 was a watershed year for the Conservancy. We saw another 75 acres permanently protected through a conservation easement, bringing the total in the county to over 1,000 acres; we held the 5th Land Talks, “Greening Downtown: Good for Business;” and with the help of almost a hundred volunteers, we were able to do the impossible again and present a wonderful Greenprint Ramble and Supper that culminated at Cedar Lane Farm – a day to remember and a celebration of Morgan County’s history and precious natural, agricultural, and historic resources.

In the fall, to our delight, an anonymous foundation, awarded the Conservancy a significant grant to support our organization from within. As a result and after ten years of operating with volunteers and part-time staff, the Conservancy Board has hired our first full-time executive director. We know Christine McCauley well - she became a volunteer in the first years of the Conservancy taking minutes at our meetings and now, we turn over to her the leadership in title that she has been giving for many years.

This watershed year also brings new board leadership, and we are proud to announce our new officers: Elizabeth Branch, President; Bob Beauchamp, Vice President; George Holt, Treasurer; and Gay Morris, Secretary. Three new board members join us, too: Chris Brandon, Weyman Hunt, and Betsy Morehouse. We thank them all for sharing their experience, perspective and commitment to the Conservancy’s mission.

As our retiring board members rotate off the board we express our sincere thanks for their creative leadership. The many dinner conversations during which we discussed the issues of the day helped galvanize our board around its mission and deepened our friendships and respect for each other. There are not thanks enough to be given to Devon Dartnell, Mary McCauley, Jane Symmes, and Robert Trulock for their many years of dedicated service on our board.

So what are our next steps? More of the same but deeper and wider. In 2010 our Educational Forums Program will consist of four forums, including: our Annual Meeting (March), the 6th Land Talks entitled “The Changing Face of Farming” (May), and a conservation easement workshop (September). We will continue to work with individual landowners in reaching their preservation goals by assisting them in using conservation easements to permanently protect their properties in return for significant federal and state income tax incentives. Our Development Review Committee will continue to be actively involved in the evaluation of rezoning applications and issues before our city and county planners. We will also continue to investigate ways to support our agricultural community and industry so that the agriculture that has supported our community for generations will continue to provide for our citizens the resources and quality of life that they want and need.

We thank you, our members, for your continued support. It was to every generation that President Theodore Roosevelt was speaking when he said, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources... the history... the romance, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches, or its romance.” To be vigilant is our task, and we thank you for your support of our work.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Branch, President

Mary McCauley, Immediate Past President

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Betsy Morehouse
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Robert Trulock
Wayne Vason
Ellen Warren

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christine McCauley



Mary McCauley with Greenprint Ramble Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Branch and Emily Buck.

Thanks for making the '09 Greenprint Ramble a great success!



'09 Greenprint Ramble Committee

Elizabeth Branch, Co-Chair

Emily Buck, Co-Chair

Julie Davie, Volunteer Coordinator

Christy Friesen, Supper Chair

Colleen Hall, Ramble Guide

Christine McCauley, Ramble Guide

Mary McCauley, Board Liaison

Becky Sherwood, Ramble Guide

Gloria Stuhmiller, Volunteer Coordinator

Jane Campbell Symmes, Host at Cedar Lane Farm

Learn more about the Conservancy at mmcgeorgia.org
Or call: (706) 342-1371

Volunteers

Camilla Dartnell
Julie & Jim Davie
Emily DeJarnette
Sage Dwyer
Angie Howard
Sue Johnson
Katherine Key
Nancy Kuperberg
Debbie Lamb
Skip Lewan
Bob McCauley

Gay and Roy Morris

Godfrey Newton

William Prior

Elizabeth Rogers

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Sue Ellen Verner

Ann-Marie & Frank Walsh

George West

NuArt Printers

Docents

Katie Hoge

Sally Hoge

Julie Jenkins

Paul Reid

Becky & Tom Sherwood

Amelia Steele

Ramble Guides

Jerry Caldwell

Maryann & Devon Dartnell

Wes Holt

Christine McCauley

Buddy Nolan

David Nunn

Earl Nunn

Joyce Thomas

Lynn Treadwell

Speakers

Andy Ainslie

Charles Baldwin

Mary McCauley

Awards Committee

Lyn & Whitey Hunt

Mary McCauley

Ginny & Dan Rather

Jeanne Reid

Anne Symmes

Wayne Vason

Ellen Warren

Grounds & Logistics

Emily Buck

Christy Friesen

Russell Ivie

Nancy Kuperberg

Jane Campbell Symmes

MUSIC

Jon Tonge

Betsy Franck

Photographer

Stephen Ives

Ramble Oral History Contributors

John Bostwick

Mary Bennett

Elizabeth Branch

Tara Cooner

Jane Crawshaw

Wilma Early

Devon Dartnell

Candler Hunt

Lyn & Whitey Hunt

Julie Jenkins

Della Mae Johnson

Monica & Ken Kocher

Shandon & David Land

Lottie Lewis

Lurette Malcom

Charlie Mason

Christine McCauley

Morgan County Resource

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Betsy Wagenhauser & Alex Newton

Godfrey Newton

Buddy Nolan

David Nunn

Earl Nunn

Danielle Peck

Adelaide & Graham Ponder

Bill Pritchard

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Bebe Ruark

Marvin Ruark

Becky Sherwood

Preston Small

Jane Campbell Symmes

Georgeanna Tamplin

Joyce Thomas

Lynn Treadwell

Kathy Whiteside

Woody Williams

Exhibits

Charles Bradley,

Smoking Gun Grill

City of Bostwick,

Historic Downtown

Historic Madison-Morgan Foundation

Angie Howard, Susie Agnes Hotel

John Ruark,

Bostwick Cotton Gin

Mark Tewksbury,

Wheat Grinder

Flowers

Patsy Aldridge

Rick Crown

Gladys de Moulpied

Flossie Dodge

June Harrell

Richard Simpson

Ann-Marie Walsh

Signs

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Wes Holt

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Robert Trulock

Colleen Hall

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Sweetwater Brewery

Boxwood Garden Patron

Evergreen Forest Products

Sunflower Farm Festival

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Lynn Walker Treadwell

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Wayne & Lee Harper Vason

Sue Ellen & Alan Verner

Ann-Marie & Frank Walsh

Ellen Warren

Dr. R.A. Weaver

Kathy & Clarence Whiteside

Sally & Carey Wickland

Thanks To Our Volunteers For Another Unforgettable Ramble Supper!

2009 Bicentennial Greenprint Ramble Menu

APPETIZERS

Bread, Butter
Deviled Eggs
Mini Pork Poppers
Town 220 Carrot & Curry Soup
Venison Meatballs

ENTREES

Bacon-wrapped Quail
Bison K-bobs
Stuffed Peppers

SIDE DISHES

Corn Salad
Greens
Green Beans & Red Potatoes
Roasted Beets With Ginger Syrup
Salad
Squash Casserole

DESSERT

Ice Cream With Peach & Pear Topping
Strawberry Cake

REFRESHMENTS

Iced Tea
Peach Sangria
Sweetwater Beer
Wine

Culinary Masters

Adrian's: Greens, Green Beans & Red Potatoes

Rob Bennett: Bison K-Bobs & Bacon-wrapped Quail

Charles Bradley: Bison K-Bobs & Bacon-wrapped Quail

Jim Branch: Bison K-Bobs, Bacon-wrapped Quail, & Pear Topping for Ice Cream

Elizabeth Branch: Pear Topping for Ice Cream

Emily Buck: Pear Topping for Ice Cream

David Buck: Bison K-Bobs, Bacon-wrapped Quail, & Pear Topping for Ice Cream

Jolene Bush, Perk Avenue: Strawberry Cake

Sage Dwyer: Corn Salad

Lee Epting: Stuffed Peppers, Iced Tea

Kelly Freyer: Deviled Eggs

Christy Friesen: Peach Sangria & Peach Topping for Ice Cream

Pierre Glardon: Roasted Beets with Ginger Syrup

Russ Green: Bison K-Bobs & Bacon-wrapped Quail

Lori Hume: Venison Meatballs

Ken Kuperburg: Bison K-Bobs & Bacon-wrapped Quail

Monica & Ken Kocher: Ice Cream

Zeke Lambert: Bison K-Bobs & Bacon-wrapped Quail

Kevin McGowan: Roasted Beets with Ginger Syrup

Stephanie Martin: Squash Casserole

Catherine Simmons: Squash Casserole

Jack Smith: Bison K-Bobs & Bacon-wrapped Quail

Kate Smith: Deviled Eggs

Carol & Mark Tewksbury: Bread, Butter, & Ground Wheat

Shannon & Tate Tewksbury: Salad

Francisco de la Torre: Town 220 Carrot & Curry Soup and Bread

Jamie & James Williams: Mini Pork Poppers

Providers

Linda Brady, BPH, Inc., Morgan County: Bacon

Burge Plantation, Newton County: Peppers

Nicolas Donck, Crystal Organic, Morgan County: Peppers

Christine & Kenneth Dean, Morgan County: Corn

Dekalb Farmer's Market, Dekalb County: Organic Vegetables

Christy Friesen, Madison: Tomatoes

Christel & Russ Green, Greendale Farm, Morgan County: Pork

Kim Janosik, Athens Locally Grown, Athens-Clarke County: Cherry Tomatoes & Onions

Babs & Hiram Johnston, Morgan County: Pears

Russell Johnston, Johnston's Dairy Farm, Morgan County: Milk

Shawn Hillsman, Morgan County: Eggs

Wes Holt, Sunflower Farm, Morgan County: Turnip Greens, Peppers, & Basil

Weyman Hunt, Innisfail Farm, Morgan County: Beef

Zeke Lambert, Morgan County: Organic Wheat

Michael McMullan, Athens Locally Grown, Athens-Clarke County: Green Beans, Peppers, Red Potatoes, & Squash

Gay Morris, Morgan County: Squash & Onions

Peters Creek Farm, Morgan & Walton Counties: Bison

Quail International, Morgan County: Quail

Sweet Grass Dairy, Thomasville: Cheese

Sweetwater Brewery, Atlanta: Sweetwater Beer

Carol & Mark Tewksbury, Morgan County: Cream

Shannon & Tate Tewksbury, Morgan County: Jalapeños, Lettuces, & Pecans

Anne and Robert Trulock, Madison: Peaches

Adam Verner, Morgan County: Beef

Russ Weaver, The Bottle Shop, Madison: Wine

Ellen Warren, Full Circle Farm, Morgan County: Eggs & Venison

Rip Williams, Flat Creek Lodge, Swainsboro: Cheese

GREENPRINT RAMBLE GUIDES AVAILABLE

If you missed the Greenprint Ramble or would just like to ramble again, please contact us to get your Ramble Guides. Greenprint Ramble Guides are available for both Rambles (October 13, 2007, Southwest Slice of Morgan County; and October 24, 2009, Northwest Slice of Morgan County) in the Conservancy office. Take a picnic and a camera, and ramble through the county on a pretty day, learning about why Morgan County is this unique and beautiful place we call home.

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources... the history... the romance, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches, or its romance."

— President, Theodore Roosevelt

CONSERVANCY GREENPRINT RAMBLE, OCTOBER 24, 2009



150+ people joined the Conservancy for a 40 mile bus tour through the northwest portion of Morgan County with a stop in Bostwick for a tour of the Bostwick Cotton Gin and Susie Agnes Hotel. The tour culminated with a supper for 230 people at Cedar Lane Farm, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Morgan County Greenprint. Supper was made mostly of Morgan County ingredients from many of the farms seen during the Ramble. Produce, dairy, and meats raised right here in Morgan county—fresh from farm to table! What a better way to celebrate the fruits of our land and the labor of Morgan County farmers.

The Greenprint Ramble is the Madison-Morgan Conservancy's signature event occurring only once every two years. As an outgrowth of our mission, the Greenprint Ramble is a contextual learning experience designed to capture the imaginations of riders while we “go back” through Morgan County’s past. As we travel through the countryside and hear stories told by long-time residents we see many of our significant natural, agricultural, and historic resources listed on the Greenprint and recognize their value.

RAMBLE RECON

Is there a landscape, natural resource, farm, grower or historic structure you think is exceptionally important or valuable to our community? If so, please let us know. **The next Greenprint Ramble will be in September of 2011.** Location, date, and resources are all to be determined. If you have ideas for the next Greenprint Ramble, please share them with us by contacting us by phone or email.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CHRIS BRANDON moved to Morgan County in 2000 from Atlanta. Mr. Brandon graduated from The Westminster Schools and has degrees from the University of Georgia and Louisiana State University's Banking School. He has served on the boards of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center; Canine Assistants, Inc. in Alpharetta, GA; and the Star Foundation in Geyersville, CA. Mr. Brandon enjoys riding cutting horses and salt water fly fishing. He is married to Lisa and has three children and seven grandchildren.

WEYMAN HUNT, a native of Morgan County, is sixth generation and part owner of his family business, Godfrey's Feed. A graduate of Woodbery Forest and the University of Georgia, Weyman returned to Morgan County in 1999 to work with his father and uncle in the feed and farm supply business serving farmers in Georgia and all surrounding states. Mr. Hunt has also served on the boards of the Morgan County Cattlemen's Association, the Downtown Business Council, and the Morgan County branch of the Community Foundation. He lives in Madison with his wonderful wife Ashley and their two boys, Dru 7, and Seager 4.

BETSY MOREHOUSE and her husband Sandy live in eastern Newton County at Burge Plantation, a 1,000 acre farm which has been in Sandy's family for 200 years and which they operate as a private hunting, shooting, and family club. They also own a bungalow in Madison and property in Morgan County. Betsy served as president of Smart Growth Newton County for several years and remains on the Smart Growth Board. Betsy is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and worked for 14 years at the Atlanta Market Center, where she was vice president of Buyer Services and Technology Services. The Morehouses have three daughters and nine grandchildren.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday Afternoon, March 7, 2010

Indigo Girls Present Treeleaf Music's Green Generator at the Cultural Center

Join the Conservancy before the Indigo Girls concert to meet Emily Saliers and to explore their wind and solar powered generator. Concert, sponsored by the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center and the Morgan County Dugout Club

Saturday, March 20, 2010

6 p.m., Ginny and Dan Rather's Barn at Malcom's Crossroads

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND MEMBERSHIP SUPPER
With special guest, Jill Johnson, of the GA Conservation Voters

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Great American Cleanup and Shred Event

Sponsored by the Conservancy, City of Madison, Keep Morgan County Beautiful, and Morgan County. Just in time for tax day—bring up to 5 bankers boxes of documents to be shredded for free between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. (location to be determined). If you would like to volunteer during the day's events, please contact Linda Thoman, 706-342-3156.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS REACH 1012 ACRES

Goose Creek Farm is not unlike many farms in Morgan County with its cattle and crops, scenic views, hardwood forests, lakes, and wildlife corridors. Goose Creek Farm and other farms like it are what the Conservancy is working hard to protect through our Conservation Easement Program.

The value of these farms lies in their soil, in their crops, and in their livestock. But our farms also contribute to the environmental health of our county through the retention of our special ecosystems, through their contributions to clean air and water, and to their contributions to the town and country development pattern that still exists in Morgan County. It is these conservation values as well as the economic value of our farms that the Conservancy is working to protect.

In December, 75 acres of Goose Creek Farm were protected by a conservation easement, bringing the total contiguous permanently protected acreage of the farm to 210 acres (protected by three separate easements). This conservation easement also puts us over the 1,000 acre mark in Morgan County for permanently protected land through conservation easements.

The Georgia Land Trust has again partnered with the Conservancy to hold this conservation easement and will be responsible for its perpetual monitoring and defense. In return for donating a conservation easement to a land trust, the landowner can receive significant income tax incentives. We thank the Beauchamp Family and all the other landowners who are actively protecting Morgan County's natural, agricultural, and historic resources! If you have questions about conservation easements, please contact us.

INTRODUCING THE WATERSHED DONORS

After helping protect over 1,000 acres of land in Morgan County through conservation easements, providing 35 educational forums in nine years, helping create the state's first county-wide Greenprint, sustaining a good working relationship with our local governments, and hosting two successful Greenprint Rambles, all on volunteer and part-time staff support, the Conservancy has a great story to tell of its first decade. We are ready to embark on our second decade from a strong foundation, and we have many people to thank for our success.

Our members have supported the Conservancy for ten years in a variety of ways: through annual membership dues which provide the funds to run this organization and provide programming; through volunteering during newsletter mailings, educational forums, and of course the Greenprint Ramble; and through moral support. We are extremely grateful for your many contributions and look forward to your continued and increased support in the future.

All our local support has been matched by a significant amount of statewide support: foundations throughout Georgia have seen the value in our work and have supported us over the years. We thank the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, the Community Foundation for Morgan County, the Georgia-Pacific Foundation, the Georgia Power Foundation, the Patagonia Foundation, the Robert M. and Lilius Baldwin Turnell Foundation, the Bryans Foundation, the Morgan Stanley Foundation, and the Waterfall Foundation.

WATERSHED:

- 1) an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water;
- 2) An event or period marking a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs.

OUR WATERSHED MOMENT:

In September, we were awarded a grant from an anonymous foundation who supports a variety of conservation organizations, which allowed us to increase our operational capacity by hiring full-time staff. In an effort to match that foundation's grant and to sustain that level of operation for the next three years, **we invite you to become a Watershed Donor by renewing your membership at either our Daniel Morgan Society (\$5,000+) or Benefactor Level (\$1,000+).** In keeping with the anonymity of the foundation, the Watershed Donors will have the option to remain anonymous or to be recognized in our publications and at our Annual Membership Supper.

We encourage you to become a Watershed Donor as an individual or through your business or foundation. All Watershed Donors will, of course, receive regular membership rewards (receiving our semi-annual newsletter, early registration to the Greenprint Ramble, and invitations to events) as well as the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting conservation locally and regionally and that you are promoting the wise use of our natural, agricultural, and historic resources.

Please join us as a Watershed Donor today or when it is time to renew your membership. If you have questions or specific requests, please contact us, 706-342-9252, or cmccauley@mmcgeorgia.org.

"After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on - have found that none of these finally satisfy, or permanently wear - what remains? Nature remains."

-Walt Whitman

PROPOSED LANDFILL IN MORGAN COUNTY

On Friday, February 12, an application was filed with Morgan County to rezone 518.437 acres located at the northeast corner of Aqua Road and Little Indian Creek Road from AR (Agricultural Residential) to I-2 (Heavy Industrial Zoning). The Applicant is proposing to use the property for a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill, which would require the I-2 zoning classification.

Morgan County's Landfill ordinance allows for the construction of a landfill, the size of which is appropriate for handling local and possibly regional waste. The Applicant has requested a rezoning and intends to request a conditional use and variances in order to expand the functionality and size of the landfill beyond what Morgan County currently allows.

The Conservancy's Development Review Committee (DRC) is currently reviewing the rezoning application. As part of the DRC's formal process, applicants are invited to present information to the DRC. In this instance the Applicant has declined the invitation. The DRC will report to the Planning Commission when the application is heard by the County, possibly March 25th or April 22 (Earth Day).

MADISON-MORGAN CONSERVANCY

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*CHARTER MEMBERS

MORGAN COUNTY EXPANDS RECYCLING EFFORTS

By Monica Hayden, Morgan County Special Projects Coordinator

Morgan County has expanded the county's recycling services offered to its residents. In addition to the usual recycling of paper, bottles and cans, the County now accepts such items as used motor oil, household paint, household pesticides, used cooking oil, and used electronic equipment. Also available is a secure drop-off station for used license tags, as well as a Goodwill donation center. All these services are located at the County's Transfer Station, 2480 Athens Hwy., in Madison.

The following electronic equipment is acceptable for recycling: computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, phones, cell phones, typewriters, intercoms, monitors, disk drives, DVD players, VCRs, radios, etc. NOT ACCEPTABLE are: large appliances, air conditioners, irons, heaters or TV's. The service is free to all Morgan County residents. However, at this time no commercial recycling can be accepted, due to the strict EPA regulations involved in this type of activity.

Residents can also drop off their recycled paper and cardboard, as well as plastic (#1 & 2), aluminum and glass containers at the following locations:

2153 Greensboro Hwy/US 278	1001 Clack Road
4691 Buckhead Road	1770 Kingston Road
1020 Doster Road	1000 Newton Road
2240 Newborn Road	Seven Islands Road
1721 Prospect Road	4861 Lower Apalachee Road
1182 Wellington Street	2480 Athens Hwy

The County has also partnered with the Morgan County School System to encourage recycling at each of the schools, by providing free pick-up service for paper, bottles and cans. All County offices are now actively recycling paper, plastic, and metal containers, as well as sending out documents for shredding and getting credit for the recycling of the shredded materials.

The County actively participates in The Great American Cleanup each year in collaboration with the City of Madison and a citizens group called "Keep Morgan Beautiful."

Conservancy note: Morgan County saw an increase in recycling of 12% from FY08 to FY09 and recycled 288.11 tons or 2.9% of our garbage in FY09. The EPA's national goal for municipal recycling is 35%, and as much as 80% of household waste can be recycled.* Much more can be done to reduce Morgan County's contribution to landfills.

**Data provided by Keep Morgan County Beautiful*

MADISON-MORGAN CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 752, Madison, GA 30650, Phone: 706-342-9252, Email: mmconservancy@mindspring.com
www.mmcgeorgia.org

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Yes, I would like to support the Madison-Morgan Conservancy by making a tax deductible contribution at the following level:

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- Supporter \$500 or more
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FOR YOUR 2009 CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATION:

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MICROSOFT ACCESS HELP NEEDED

If you would like to assist us in the renovation of our Access Membership Database, we could use your help! Please contact us if you have the time and expertise to help us, 706-342-9252.

This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper.



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P.O. Box 752
Madison, GA 30650

Return Service Requested