

REDCLIFFE PLANTATION
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Redcliffe Southern Times

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT REDCLIFFE.

- Growing History, July 18th 10 am-Noon
- Archaeology Day, September 19th 10 am-1:00 pm

For more information on these programs please contact the park.

Note: In last month's issue (May 2009) Ms. Cynthia Smith's article "Slave Resistance" referred to the name Alonzo Mack. Redcliffe has no access to research directly connecting these two names. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.



Go to www.southcarolinaparks.com to sign up for the South Carolina State Park Service e-newsletter. It's a great day to explore your state!

CIP Process—Bringing People Together for Redcliffe's Future

Descendants, neighbors, academics, volunteers, tourism partners, public institutions, and National and State Park Service staff came together on May 19, 2009 to kick off the comprehensive interpretive planning process that will guide the interpretation of Redcliffe Plantation for the next several years. The stakeholders meeting was a "brainstorm" session which generated important dialogue among attendees. Stakeholders were asked to identify why the site was special or important to them, what stories they would like to see told at Redcliffe, how the site can improve/enhance visitor services, and how we can improve/enhance collabora-



Descendants Christine Beard (left) and Katherine Colgan (right) share stories during a break.

tion and communication with our partners. Bob Weyeneth, Director of the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina, attended the meeting and identified his interest in the site and the process. "It was a privilege to be invited to participate in a planning meeting on the future of Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site. Redcliffe is an intriguing site with unique opportunities for engaging public audiences with the story of slavery in South Carolina. Not only is it associated with an ardent and outspoken defender of the 'peculiar institution,' but the only extant slave cabins in our state park system are located at Redcliffe. We have both an historical and a moral obligation to tell the story of slavery there fully and bravely."

One of the goals from the May 19th stakeholder meeting was to collect the thoughts and recommendations from people with a vested interest in the park's future. Larry Gleason, area photographer and a long-time visitor of the park, stated that "The CIP stakeholder meeting was a professional and organized process that will ensure a detailed plan to best spotlight Redcliffe Plantation's future opportunities as a 'Best in Show' South Carolina State Park." The meeting's input provides the foundation for the detailed Comprehensive Interpretive Plan that will be co-written by National Park Service and South Carolina State Park Service. The plan will align Redcliffe's interpretive themes, visitor experiences, and visitor types with future interpretive services.

The South Carolina State Park Service would like to thank the stakeholders for their valuable time and input into the plan's groundwork and to Melissa English-Rias (NPS) for facilitating the meeting and the future development of the plan. We expect to develop the plan throughout the next year.



Stakeholders included professors like Bob Weyeneth (right), Director of the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina and representatives from public institutions like Tonya Browder, Director of the Tompkins Library in Edgefield.

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Stakeholders gather to mark the beginning of a year-long process and share their individual and family stories.

Intern Spotlights



Cynthia Smith

My name is Cynthia Smith, a senior at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, seeking a degree in secondary education in Social Studies. After graduation, I aspire to teach high school social studies courses. I interned at Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site in Spring 2009. The research project for the semester was to research and investigate slave resistance on Hammond's plantations. Interning at Redcliffe was a great experience in research and interpreting primary source materials. Lessons learned at Redcliffe are invaluable to my educational journey.

Bill Whaley

I am a history major at the University of South Carolina Aiken and I generally try to focus on colonial and antebellum American history. I also have a passion for local history. When one of my professors alerted me to the possibility of an internship at the antebellum plantation known as Redcliffe, I jumped at the opportunity. Most of my work at Redcliffe was in the library where curator Melissa Jolley and I completed condition reports for each volume. It was a very enjoyable experience and I learned quite a bit about how things operate there. After graduating from USCA I will likely attend graduate school where I will focus on museum studies and public history.



Artifact of the Month: The Magician Bank



This cast iron mechanical bank rests on a bookshelf in Redcliffe's Library. The bank is modeled to show a magician performing a trick. He stands with his hat poised above a table, on a platform, with steps down each side. A wand is held in the right hand of the magician, but it deceptively blends in with the rim of the black top hat he is holding. The name "Magician Bank" and decorative scrollwork adorn the steps. On its bottom, the bank bears the mark "Reproduced from Original in Collection of The Book of Knowledge." A series of these banks were replicated by the Grolier Book of Knowledge Company from the original antiques in their collection. According to F.H. Griffith in *Hobbies* magazine (June 1964 and April 1976), the bank was patented January 22, 1901, by William C. Bull of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was manufactured by the J. & E. Stevens Company of Cromwell, Connecticut, and was pictured in their catalog for 1906 but does not appear in any of their

catalogs after that year. During the latter part of the 1800's, cast iron mechanical coin banks were a common sight in the American home. The theory of these ingenious coin banks was a practical one --- teach the children the habit of regular thrift by making saving fun. Collecting penny banks came into vogue after the Depression, when they began to be appreciated further as products of American skill, ingenuity and craftsmanship. For more information on mechanical banks, please visit the Mechanical Bank Collectors of America website at www.mechanicalbanks.org.

Tree Give-away a Success!

1,000 BIG TREES DONATED TO TORNADO VICTIMS

150 tornado victims told stories of trees lost in recent storms and to start planting a new forest on Saturday. Local nurseries and Redcliffe Plantation distributed 1,000 trees. “This seems like a turning point for lots of people...after weeks, we can finally look forward just a little bit”, said Gloria Farmer, who’s Garden Club volunteered to help people pick out trees. Mrs. Farmer lost 35 trees.

Some residents hugged and cried telling of the loss of shade for homes and gardens. Many residents recounted decades with certain trees – “50 trees down, 40 stumps ground, 2 acres cleared, not a bush left for my dog to lift his leg on!” Damage estimates are now at \$3 million which does not include loss of real-estate value due to landscapes and gardens. In some neighborhoods, all established landscapes had to be bulldozed to nothing more than sand.

Redcliffe State Historic Site, home to an incredible collection of trees planted since 1855, hosted the event. Nurseries from Gainesville, Florida, Moncks Corner and North Augusta donated Magnolias, Cypress, Oaks, Maples, Eucalyptus and Crepe Myrtles.

South Carolina’s nursery industry is a part of the second biggest industry in South Carolina. We have a huge range of nurseries including: one of the largest wholesale nurseries on the East Coast (Carolina Landscape Supply), one of the most progressive in the United States, (Nurseries Caroliniana in North Augusta) (www.nureriescaroliniana.com) and tiny connoisseur nurseries operating via mail order (Lushlife Crinums) (www.jenksfarmer.com).

All contributed to the re-planting effort. Jenks Farmer, local horticulturist, arranged for the plant donations. “I planted these trees with my Daddy, when I was in kindergarten (1974). After the storm I scrambled over the same trees – now 8 feet around. Neighbors who raised all the local children were dazed by a devastated landscape. Seeing those trees down and those older people stricken was gut-wrenching. Until it’s literally wiped away, you can’t imagine the impact of the neighborhood forest. My friend Betty had prom, wedding and Thanksgiving pictures from 40 years back in front of her Magnolia that now sits crumbled. This is a way I could help, using my skills and knowledge of plants.”

contributed by Jenks Farmer

