

The Cloudland Gazette

Friends of Cloudland Canyon State Park

Cloudland's Hemlocks in Danger

-John Logan

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an invasive species from Asia. It is a small aphid like insect that feeds on the sap of hemlocks. "We have it", says Angela Kaiser. They appear as cotton-like puffs at the base of needles or small black specks on the underside of branches about the size of a period at the end of this sentence. There is a predatory beetle that eats HWA, but the best treatment is pesticide. The treatment lasts 5 years and will give the predatory beetles time to spread. Bobby Davenport, trustee for the Lula Lake Land trust has said, "Every hemlock will be dead in about a 10-year period of time." That is, if they are left untreated. The land trust is next in line to receive a release of predatory beetles. This will be a huge undertaking that we should strongly consider. We shouldn't allow this majestic stand of trees to be decimated. This is an expensive endeavor and we will need donations to help fund this task. We should also be thinking of a



The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

'save the hemlock' festival. A weekend of special events to draw public attention to this devastating little bug would boost awareness. This could set off our treatment campaign and hopefully recruit volunteers to help. The donations generated could aid us in purchasing the pesticide and equipment to deliver the pesticide. We can get in touch with our forestry department and see what resources they can afford us, but I would

imagine they are overwhelmed with this epidemic. If ever there was a need for the public to step in and assist this is the time.

Why save the hemlocks?

"The hemlocks aren't just part of the south's pretty scenery. In many cases, they provide an unbroken canopy, which shades streams below from the sun. If the hemlocks were to die and the canopy was broken, the heat would change the ecology of

these streams, adversely, affecting the many shade-dependent species of flora and fauna that live there." Torgerson, Mary B. "Woolly Invaders." Get Out Chattanooga January 2013: 16.print

Volume 1, Issue 1
January 2013

Special points of interest:

- Our hemlocks are under attack!
- 75 years ago we started something.
- Eyes on the sky for a purple martin scout.
- The IC will be opening back up soon.

Inside this issue:

75th Anniversary	2
Call the Martins	2
Growing Pains	2
IC Corner	3
Out on the Trail	3
Calendar of Events	4
What Friends	4

Seventy Five Years Young

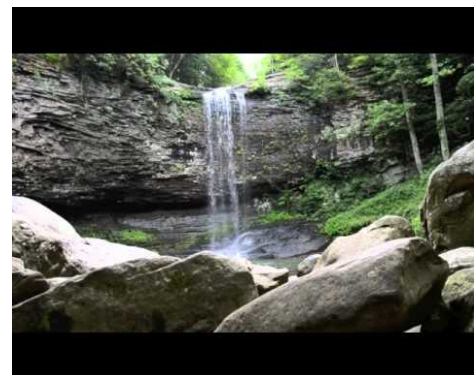
- John Logan

Seventy five years ago the state opened Cloudland Canyon State Park. In 1939 the park was much smaller than it is now. We didn't have as many trails as we do currently. The Civilian Conservation Corp was instrumental in the creation that we have here now. You can still see glimpses of their work throughout the park and many other state parks. We are celebrating our history. We will have some special events to help celebrate.

Tom Pounds, Connie and Dane Ward are audio and video recording a few young folks that remember the park opening. Look for

that to turn up in the interpretive center as soon as we can make it happen. There will most likely be DVD copies for sale in the office. We are also contacting the Dade County Historical Society to see if they can help us in the search for early pictures of the park. If you or someone you know has pictures of those early years or any other time throughout our history see if we can borrow them and/or get copies. It would be awesome to have them on display in the front office and as well as the interpretive center.

We hope to be finalizing more events to take place during this year. Look for those events to be posted in the following newsletters.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Looking for a Purple Martin Scout- Mark Issenberg

Mark Issenberg, John Logan and with a little help from Tom Pounds, moved the old martin bird house that was up in the woods across from the office to the catfish pond. Martins like their homes to be out in open fields and close to a water source. Purple Martins spend the non-breeding season in Brazil then migrate to North America to nest. East of the Rockies they are totally dependent on human-supplied housing. West of the Rockies and in the deserts they largely

nest in their ancestral ways, in abandoned woodpecker nest cavities. Martins, like all swallows, are aerial insectivores. They eat only flying insects, which they catch in flight. Their diet is diverse, including dragonflies, damselflies, flies, midges, mayflies, stink-bugs, leafhoppers, Japanese beetles, June-bugs, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, cicadas, bees, wasps, flying ants, and ballooning spiders.

www.purplemartin.org

**purple martin
conservation association**



A Plan for the Future- John Logan

Friends of Cloudland Canyon State Park (FOCCSP) is in the middle of some growing pains. We aren't so little anymore, but not quite grown up either. We will be working on a strategic plan that will help guide us into our new growth stages. Strategic planning is an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. In order to determine the direction of the organization, it is necessary to understand its current position and the pos-

sible avenues through which it can pursue a particular course of action. Generally, strategic planning deals with at least one of three key questions: 1. "What do we do?" 2. "For whom do we do it?" 3. "How do we excel?" In many organizations, this is viewed as a process for determining where an organization is going over the next year or—more typically—3 to 5 years. We will seek help from Mike Pollock. Our own Dane Ward and Jim Lockwood will

head up the process. We will have some brain storming meetings to help generate ideas for this team to start the strategic plan. This will be happening after the state Friends conference so we can see what ideas will be brought back from there.



Interpretive Center Happenings

- Bonnie Cayce

Interpretive Center News: We look forward to spring at the Interpretive Center. Last year, we planted new flowers and plants and there should be a good showing when the weather warms up. Mark will continue feeding the birds and hummingbirds, and making sure the bird baths are full. Bonnie will assist him, and continue gardening at the office and center. We plan to have more school groups to visit so Stephanie, Bonnie, and others

on the Interpretive Committee can involve the students in hiking, games, demonstrations, story telling and more. Stephanie has made such improvements inside our building, with displays and activities for children and adults. The story area is being utilized by park visitors, and we plan to have more planned story telling and reading times. We have also discussed planning more activities for seniors.



Folks warming by campfire in front of Interpretive Center

Out on the Trail

-John Logan, Greg Foster

Well it rained, rained, rained....rained some more. Was getting ready to sell the house and buy a house boat! We need the water, but not all at once. Our trails turned into springs, branches, and creeks! Needless to say they will need some TLC. Look for upcoming trail workdays on our face book page (Friends of Cloudland Canyon). The trail committee will have a meeting to discuss the priorities after a trail inspection. The winter and spring months are the hardest on our trail and our trail maintainers. John Logan will present a short PowerPoint presentation at the end of next month's meeting to illustrate trail drainage options.

Why not cancel the gym membership, join our crew for free, hike trails, get outdoors and help maintain them. If you are a trail adoptee and you need the help let the trail team know. Here is Greg Foster with a message about our next trail work day.

As we all know, we have obligated ourselves to do quite a bit of trail building to help FINISH the CCT (Cloudland Connector Trail)

We have Chattanooga Hiking Meet up Folks coming on Sat the 9th for a 4 hour work day on the CCT.

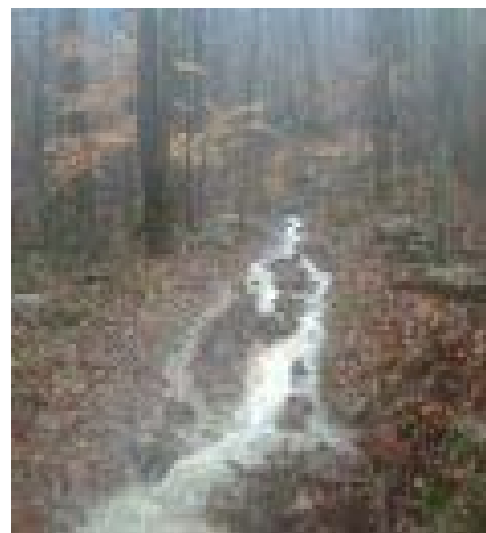
13 have signed up thus far. We need some FOCCSP participation as well, so hereby asking that anyone that can come out and help, please let me know or if you so desire, you can join the CHM and sign up there. Regardless, We need and would love to have as many of you (WE) as possible to come out and help too.

As Rhonda so wonderfully stated, We've heard people talk about "PAYING IT FORWARD" to benefit others.

Let this be our way of paying it forward to the generations of hikers to come.

Thanks & Happy Trails!!!

Greg.....Your Trail Guy



Flooded trail



Cloudland Canyon State Park
122 Cloudland Canyon Park Road
Rising Fawn, GA 30738

phone: 706-657-4050
email: foccsp@gmail.com
Www.friendsofcloudlandcanyon.org

Check out our new Yurt Village



.....
Friends of Cloudland Canyon State Park assist the Georgia Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect Cloudland Canyon State Park by raising funds, public awareness and providing volunteers for needed projects

Description

To LEARN more about the Friends of Cloudland Canyon SP and read about Volunteer opportunities, visit our website: <http://friendsofcloudlandcanyon.org/>

**COME OUT AND JOIN
OUR GROUP. VOLUNTEERS ARE WHAT
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.**



What does it take to be a Friend of Cloudland Canyon?

Want to save some money during these hard times? Drop your gym memberships, toss



out the DVD library of workouts. No sweaty smelly gyms only the beautiful forest and vistas here. Just join our motley crew.

Whether it's the Interpretive Center planting plants or leading hikes or get with the trail maintainers and we will walk your pounds off. Here carry this pack with a chainsaw strapped to it.LOL That'll make you sweat. But don't join if you don't want to have a good time around a bunch of down to earth , easy going individuals. We have fun.

I mean an absolute blast. We get to drive mules, tractors, and Polaris UTVs and juggle chainsaws.

How do you sign up? Come to the monthly meeting it happens on the 4th Thursday every month except for when that interferes with holidays of inclement weather. You can email us foccsp@gmail.com go to our website www.friendsofcloudlandcanyon.org or check us out on face book "Friends of Cloudland Canyon"

IT IS FREE TO JOIN

Calendar of Events

- February 9th Trails Work Day on CCT with Chattanooga Outdoors Group
- February 22, 23, 24 Annual Friends Conference
- March (DTBD) FOCCSP Recognition Dinner
- March 16 Sky watch with Joe D'Agastino
- MORE TO COME IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE. Dates will be confirmed.

