Thanks to our current, new and renewing Canal Keepers!

Life

Gerald Jones Saburo
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Herbert

Lockmaster

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Pat Knox-Hudson

Martin Marietta Quarry

Third Level

Bill & Susan Lesash
Mr. and Mrs. Bray Boardman* Pete & Tricia Hughes

Second Level | Personal

Ben & Day Harrision* Bob and Catherine Woodhurst* Chris Booker*

Chris Hargrove Crystal and George Esola David and Patty Polasky Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell & Mr. Richard Swann Dr. Lowell and Mrs. Gloria Greenbaum* Dr. Robert P. and Joyce Schlosser*


Second Level | Business


First Level | Family

Andy and Kayelson Cooke Ann Boardman Becky & James Abell Dayton and Lisa Sherrouse Dian Gustafson Frances Cutting Gemaau Illgiasius and Maryann Dyman Josh & Betsy Lane Kim and Anne Sibley* Ky Phanhausv* Lyle and Shirley Glascow Mary Schorsch Michael Toman Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCutcheon Ryan Scott Wagner* Skip and Nancy Watson Stanley Numberger The Slaby Family Treisy CME Church* Wayland and Lori Lamar Whitney Pickert & Erich Thorpe

First Level | Individual

Alex Nixon* Anne Way* Caroline K. Telft Catherine Winbush Cathy Simmons Deborah Myers Jay Rogaski* Jeanie Allen Jill Adelsberger Joseph Cannon* Julia S. Key Loretta Whorick Mary Beth Gaudette Nancy Cummyn Connolly Tribble Robbie Golden Robert Hill Run the Tangents Timing Steven Goldberg Terry Smith Triisha Holland Malls* Yagi Gong*

First Level | Dual/Couple

Alan and Shirley Walters Auben Realty, LLC* Blair and Jason Trefz* Bob Prescott Cheryl and Sam Tyson* Cindy Capey* Cliff and Canal Miller* Dennis and Marita Moberg Dr. and Mrs. David Myers Jane and Andy Edmunds Joyce and Edie Himmel* Marcus and Kelcy Maxhoi Marguerite Fogelman* Martin and Ranson Schwerzer Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Shedd* Mr. and Mrs. TH Herndon* Oliver and Carolyn Owens* Page and Convy Ford Pat and James Meadows* Pamela and Kathy Jarvis* Sam and Laurie Brown* Sophie and Ghislain Perron* Dr. Steve and Sandy Hobbs Susan and Craig Cameron* Tommy and Katherine Boyles Vicki Coffin Wendy Kurtin

*Due for renewal soon. Contact jshurtleff@augustacanal.com

Inside this issue:

Book’s delivered! 1
COVID Updates 2
Lake Olmstead Dredging 2
What is the borrow pit? 2
Digging into the Past... 3
New Public Art 3
Staff Spotlight 3
Coming up on the Canal 4

NEWS COVID-19 AprilJune Spring Schedule

Open Tues. - Sat. 9:30-4:30 with Boat Tours at 10:00, 11:00, 1:30 (Civil War) and 3:00.

Upcoming Events:

Ashley Gray’s Public Art Unveiling “Basking Sliders”* Wednesday, March 3 at 11:00AM, Lake Olmstead Trailhead, 0 Mileage Rd.

3 Bridges SK/1OK* March 6 & 9:00AM at Lake Olmstead Trailhead. Proceeds benefit the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area.

Spring Moonlight Music Cruises

Start April 2 -Check out our website and social media for the updated schedule.

April boats 6:00PM and 7:30PM; May & June boats 6:30PM and 8:00PM

“Thanks to a grant from “Women in Philanthropy” for funding this project. We are about to wrap up the delivery of the books to all elementary schools in the CSRA. Deliveries include 70 schools in 13 counties in Georgia and 30 schools in 5 counties in South Carolina! Thank you all for the support given in 2020. We are wishing the best going into 2021. The trails are being used! We reported about 450,000 trail users in 2020, up from around 300,000 in 2019. Join or renew your Canal Keeper membership and help trail maintenance and improvement. To join or make a donation email shurtleff@augustacanal.com, online at augustacanal.com/donate, or mail in the enclosed membership form.

Julianna’s Jottings

Happy New Year! Thanks for the continued support! The 2nd son at the end of March! I will be out until June. Please let me know if you have any questions before I head out in the Spring! Thanks for the continued support! Julianna Shurtleff Development & Outreach Manager


Monte Sano Elementary Julie Boonne, Augusta Canal Education Coordinator and Principal, Ms. Lane

AUGUSTA CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Become a Canal Keeper today!
online at augustacanal.com/donate.
Phone: 706-823-0440 x 8
E-mail: jshurtleff@augustacanal.com
1450 Greene Street Suite 400 Augusta, GA 30901

Page 4
Be aware that the towpath from the Bulkhead Gate to the Long Gate Spillway will be CLOSED during this project. BUT the pipe is far enough under the water that boats can pass through the Bulkhead Gate safely. Boaters are reminded to stay in lanes and be alert to oncoming traffic.

Lake Olmstead Dredging

Pictures above are from the active dredging of Lake Olmstead. Gator Dredging is the business completing this project, estimated completion in Fall 2021. The dredging pipe (see at right) goes through Rae’s Creek, across the canal at the Bulkhead Gate, over the towpath, and back into Rae’s Creek at the aqueduct. Be aware that the towpath from the Bulkhead Gate to the Long Gate Spillway will be CLOSED during this project. BUT the pipe is far enough under the water that boats can pass through the Bulkhead Gate safely. Boaters are reminded to stay in lanes and be alert to oncoming traffic.

What is the Borrow Pit & Mitigation Ponds?

Driving up or down Riverwatch Parkway—do you ever wonder what the rectangular ponds are off to the Savannah River side? This is the borrow pit and mitigation ponds that were created as a result of the construction of Riverwatch Parkway in the early 1990s. This was a preservation project for the natural wetlands that originally sat between the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal.

The pond is currently being used to collect the sand being dredged from Lake Olmstead. While driving along Riverwatch Parkway, you will probably see more pipes and construction equipment. This is also a beautiful area to walk while visiting the canal trails. You access these ponds from the entrance Canal Singletrack Trail by the aqueduct. Many visitors see egret, heron and even the occasional alligator sunbathing.

Current COVID-19 Hours & Regulations

Our new Spring hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9:30-4:30 and these will continue through 2021. COVID Restrictions:
- Masks required inside the Discovery Center at all times.
- Very limited seating on the Petersburg Boat Tours for social distancing. We are at about 50% capacity.
- Passengers have assigned seating to be socially distanced.
- Hand sanitizing stations placed at all doors.
- Sneze guard shields set up at the Front Desk.

“Moonlight Music Cruises” will resume this spring with a different schedule. We will offer TWO back-to-back boat rides on Friday evenings. This is due to limited seating on the boats. Prices are $27 for adults and $25 for senior 60+, military, or students. Check out our website www.augustacanal.com for musician schedule.

Digging Into the Past….

Grand Opening of Sibley Mill was February 22, 1882!

This “was an occasion for a civic celebration, with hundreds of curious townspeople touring the mill.”

In 1877, Josiah Sibley applied for the old Confederate Powderworks tract. Sibley merged with a competing business, Cumming Manufacturing Company, to create Sibley Mill.

Architect Jones Davis, who had designed Enterprise Mill was hired to sketch Sibley Mill. Once investors were secured, Davis broke ground on the building on June 1, 1880. Josiah Sibley had given the presidency to his son William. Williams daughter Pearl laid the first brick and the road next to the mill was named for her.

The design was meant to resemble the Confederate Powderworks building that stood on this spot during the Civil War. The building was described as neo-gothic with a crenelated roofline. The Powderworks was said to be built to resemble the Houses of Parliament, therefore this European architecture later influenced Sibley Mill.

Mill houses were built along Pearl Ave. This mill provided jobs for failing farmers, including the whole family—men, women, and children.

Ashley Gray’s “Basking Sliders”

There is a NEW public art piece at Lake Olmstead Trailhead. Ashley Gray received a Porter Fleming Grant to create this ceramic piece along the canal trail. “Basking Sliders” is a tribute to the wildlife present along the canal. Many yellow-bellied sliders are residents of the canal. Often they can be seen basking in the sun on rocks or branches at the water’s edge.

Save the Date! Ashley Gray’s “Basking Turtles” will have an official unveiling Wednesday, March 3 at 11:00AM.

Board Spotlight

The Augusta Canal Authority Board is a volunteer board that meets monthly to vote on decisions for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area.

Our Board Chairman, Richard Isdell has led our board for over 9 years. He is always willing to help and very involved!

Three of our Board members, Tom Robertson, Jeannie Allen, and Bob Woodhurst have been on the board since its inception in 1989!

How do you get appointed? Two members are elected by their state legislators, while the other ten are elected by their district commissioners.

There is a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Executive board, elected by a nominating committee.

We are very grateful for all of our Board members who serve our canal!