

# News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc

Volume 6, Number 4

December 2003

*Angel Trumpets along west porch*



*Fall Beauty  
at the Park*



*Don't forget the annual  
Holiday Charity Fruit  
Picking!*

*(see calendar of events)*



*Gerbera daisy in garden*

## *An "Evening Under the Stars" Features Fine Food and Wine, Liting Celtic Tunes, House Tours, and Art and Book Auction*

With soft lights gleaming from the windows of the house, a hearty spread of delicacies arranged on tables near the pump house, and the excitement of the auction of art and book items under cover of the barn, the "Evening Under the Stars" held at the Marjorie Rawlings home on October 17 was a very festive occasion. Luminaries led guests through the grove into the farmyard, transformed by lanterns and lively Celtic music played by Fortuity, a talented trio of musicians.

The chickens and ducks had all settled down for the night, but Marcel (our resident mouser) and Sugar (our canine cutie) helped the Friends greet 100 or so

guests to our annual fundraising event.

We thank a constellation of loyal supporters for the excellent refreshments: ABC Fine Wine & Spirits, Albertsons, Hitchcock's in Hawthorne, Publix, Upper Crust Productions, Ward's Super Market and Winn Dixie.

Auctioneer Charlie Register kept the crowd entertained as books and a fine spectrum of art items were offered. Our warmest appreciation goes to those who donated books and art works to this special event. Among the artists represented were Ellie Dodge, Kate Barnes, John Moran, Greg Murray, Virginia Chen, Michael Baird, Sam

Petrone, Barry Barnett, Phyllis Hansen, and Sam Carr.

*By Murray Laurie*



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## *From the Files: The Hitchcock Chairs in the Dining Room*

*By Anne Pierce*

Early in Chapter 17, "Our Daily Bread", of *Cross Creek*, Marjorie Rawlings tells us, "Cookery is my one vanity and I am a slave to any guest who praises my culinary art." The dining

room of the farmhouse must have been the center of the enjoyment. Luckily, we can still get a feel of what it must have been like to be a dinner guest, especially when the table is set with her lovely things. The room also contains a sideboard, a

chest of drawers, a serving cart, several sets of china, and seven "Hitchcock dining chairs". Records indicate that these chairs were, at time of her death, bequeathed to the University of Florida Endowment to be used for purposes of UF.



## The Hitchcock Chairs (continued from page 1)

Later the UF Endowment transferred them to MKR Historic State Park. The archive records describe them as follows:

Straight chairs with a single horizontal back slat; rush bottom seats-seams of weaving form an X. Chairs are black with red base color. Chairs are decorated with gold trimming and fruit and flower design in gold on the back slat. The top of each chair is turned with a wide area in the center that has an eye and feathered design in gold. Chairs are scrolled at the front corners.

All chairs are delicate in design with small turned legs. One chair has arms while the other six do not. As we tour the room we are asked not to lean on or touch the backs of the chairs to preserve already worn surfaces. Moe and

Miz' Rawlings's other rough and ready hunter friends must have been something to see leaning back in the dainty chairs.

There is no record of where MKR bought the chairs. Were they shipped to Florida when she bought the farm or at a later date? It is quite likely that they were as the maker, Lambert Hitchcock, worked in New England. During the early 1800's he worked in Silas E. Cheney's workshop in Litchfield, CT. This shop made Federal Period sideboards and hand-painted "fancy chairs" for wealthy clients. At age 23, Hitchcock opened his own shop in rural Connecticut and invented and produced knock-down chairs that could be easily assembled by the buyers. A new British technique called "stenciling" was used to inexpensively produce a design on the back of the chair. As a result, he produced a low-priced product (\$49-

\$1.50) that was easy to ship. The firm pioneered the mass-production technique that was much later used by Henry Ford. Lambert Hitchcock died, insolvent, in 1852.

The source of some of my information was [www.antiquetalk.com/column128.html](http://www.antiquetalk.com/column128.html) where the authors state, "antique Hitchcock seating furniture carries little weight in the marketplace today--partly because it was intended for a smaller, lighter race of citizens."



## Park Wish List

If you have some of these items you wish to donate please contact Sheila Barnes or Valerie Rivers at Park office (352) 466-3672

### Something Old....Something New....

- An enamel coffee percolator with glass dome
- Wheelbarrow
- Storage shed with air conditioning for supplies and archives
- 1930-40 tractor with mower
- Rechargeable electric drill
- Saws-All
- Weed Wacker that provides for attachments

### Volunteers!!!!

We need volunteers to help in any aspect of park operations.

We appreciate our volunteers!

## Volunteer Spotlight

*“We need, above all, I think, a certain remoteness from the urban confusion, and while this can be found at other places, Cross Creek offers it with such beauty and grace that once entangled with it, no other place seems possible to us, just as when truly in love, none offers the comfort of the beloved”*

When I was asked to write a few words on how I feel about being a volunteer at the MKR home/state park, I knew that the words had long ago been written to answer that, and that they still stay in my heart long after I read them.

Originally from the North, curiosity of MKR, and her work, brought me to Florida and the Creek. My enchantment in sharing the same love of this lifestyle



Pat has been instrumental in getting our fall garden going

that MKR felt, keeps me here. To be included in the wonderful group of people that help keep her home as she would have is a privilege. To be able to share with visitors who stop and chat while I work is an enjoyment. To hear the varied reasons behind these visits is, at time, a wonderment and is always, as neighbors would be in exchanging pleasantries over a backyard fence.



Lifetime Members

Candace Henderson

Roy Hunt

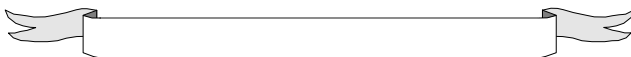
Brenda Keith


Collene, Frank and Lana Mahoney

Philip S. May, Jr.

W.L. Miller

A.L. Rhinchart





**Membership in the Friends of  
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.**

We invite you to join or renew your membership in the Citizen Support Organization (CSO) for the MKR Historic State Park. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural resources at the Marjorie Rawlings Cross Creek farm.

Friends of MKR Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership					
Type	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	Lifetime
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$125</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$105</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>Educational</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$105</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$210</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$900</b>

Please circle type of membership and return this postcard with your check to us at the address below.



**FRIENDS OF MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS FARM, INC.**

P.O. Box 337  
Micanopy, FL 32667-0337

Website: [www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org](http://www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org)

## Calendar of Events

2003

December 13th, 10a.m.

**First Fruit Picking**

Bring your family and friends and help us harvest the ripe and ready citrus fruit in the Rawlings grove

December 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Annual Holiday Party**

The Rawlings House will be decked with Mother Nature's seasonal finery, the Christmas tree in the parlor will be trimmed, and the dining room table will be spread with holiday goodies. Join the Friends and the Cross Creek community in this annual celebration.

2004

January 6, 6:30p.m.

Executive Board Meeting, Phyllis Hansen's Home, Cross Creek

January 13, 6:30p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting, TBA, Cross Creek

January 17,

CSO District Meeting, Ft. Cooper State Park

March 27

Annual Scrub Trip (see next newsletter for further details)



allamanda in bloom

Ducks are happy with cooler weather!



Staff Member Lee Townsend

