

2012 Annual Report Friends of Croft

2012 was a busy year for Friends of Croft. Established in 2009, we are continuing to grow and help Croft State Park be a better place to play and enjoy the outdoors. Although our membership is small, we have been able to contribute many things to Croft. The governor declared early in the year that all state parks should be self sufficient in a few years, so Croft has great challenges ahead for revenue. Friends of Croft is dedicated to do all we can to help the park remain available to all to enjoy.

Facilities: Early in the year we heard the hoses at the horse wash rack were in significant disrepair and made plans to replace. Mark Wilson heard this and decided to donate them! Because there is an ongoing need for cleaning at the park, Friends purchased a commercial grade pressure washer and donated to the park. In September we primed the outside stucco walls of the Lake Craig Bathhouse and provided paint for the bathhouse. There is still a great deal of work to be done at the bathhouse and Friends is committed to completing. In September we cleaned out the cabin by the horse arena. And I mean inside pressure wash cleaned! It is in such better shape now!

Trails: We have provided signs for all horse, bike and nature trails as well as the Half Marathon route (CCHM) so hopefully everyone can stay on their intended course. In March we assisted the Spartanburg Parks and Recreation Department for work on the Southside Bike Trails. In the summer we hired a professional to renovate approximately one and a half miles of the Fairforest Connector Trail from Kelsy Creek to McFadden Road and partly toward the Twin Oaks Picnic shelter. Our hope is to continue the professional grading so the trails will not erode and remain safe.

Workdays: In January we had a workday to clean up the Lee Cemetery (on the park road just past the ranger house on the right). The Department of Corrections provided labor to chip the downed trees into mulch. We were able to purchase locust rails and with the help of Bobby Turner and his truck, have them delivered from Walhalla. They have been put up around the Lee and Foster Cemeteries thanks to some volunteers from Milliken. We also have provided weed killer to keep the grounds looking nice. We have adopted Dairy Ridge Road for litter control and had 4 trash pickup days. The drive into the park looks so much nicer without the trash along the roadside.

Events: Friends of Croft was a sponsor for the 3rd annual Fishing Derby the first Saturday in May. During the fall biological hunt we had 2 hotdog dinners for the deer hunters. Our big event for the year was Halloween weekend which we called Neewollah. We sold concessions for the outdoor movie Spiderwick Friday night and had a festival Saturday. We served hotdogs and nacho plates along with popcorn, hot cider and chocolate. A bounce house and slide was available for the little kids and we had 2 hayrides (one fun and one frightful), a bonfire with marshmallow roasting and storytelling. We also had prizes for best costumes, decorated campsites and golf carts after a parade.

Income: Friends was blessed to receive proceeds from the Camp Croft Half Marathon put on by Seth Novak and the Spartanburg Running Club. We also had proceeds from Joe Parker and the 24 hour

Epic Run. A new trail run contributing proceeds to Friends of Croft was the Croft Challenge Trail Marathon. Mitzi Morris volunteered over 50 hours to Friends of Croft in 2012 to receive an award of \$500 from her employer, Santo-Lubes. Along with the income from our hunter meals and Neewollah, Friends was able to give much back to the park and plan on even bigger things in 2013.

Friends of Croft is a growing nonprofit with a few very committed members who are passionate about Croft State Park and its well being. In 2012 we volunteered 572 hours on projects at the park. We hope to grow more committed members in the coming year. Croft is a jewel in Spartanburg County with its many outdoor opportunities and historic sites. We want everyone to “Come out and Play”!

Sincerely,

Fern Powell, President.