

Friends of Croft
Year End Report
2011

Friends of Croft is up and running! We spent the majority of 2010 organizing ourselves and developing policies. 2011 has been a lot more fun since we have been able to do things for Croft State Park. With funding from The Croft Half Marathon (\$2717), a \$750 grant from Williams Pipeline and Santo-Lubes donation of \$500, we have had a decent budget to work with.

We have had 362 volunteer hours, including work by students from Converse College (Lake Craig trash clean up in August) and USC Upstate (Fun Day). We are advertising ourselves with Adopt-A-Highway signs on Dairy Ridge Road (one at each end). Besides helping to get our name out, we are keeping the entrance route to Croft State Park more attractive. To help with promoting our group, we now have t-shirts, too. \$15 donation if you're interested.

Friends has been able to provide gravel for 2 campsites and Fairforest Loop Trail. We helped Pisgah Trailblazers do some rerouting of Fairforest Loop in February. Friends donated t-shirts for kids participating in the Fishing Derby May 7 at Lake Craig. We had a team for Relay for Life on May 20. We have provided signs to post along the Southside Bike Trails and are in process of getting signs for the horse trails as well as the Half Marathon Trail route. Hopefully, we can work toward replacing the trail maps. This is pending approval of some new trails. The playground at the main parking area had no benches for parents and grandparents to rest, so we funded and constructed 2 benches for the area. And the horse wash racks have new hoses we provided.

September 24 was Fun Day at Croft. We had a nature hike, scavenger hunt, games, kayak raffle and hotdog plates for sale. As our first event, it wasn't a large turnout, but everyone who participated had fun. October 15 was a Fall Foliage Kayak Tour co-sponsored with Spartanburg Parks and Recreation. November 12 was the Croft Trail Half Marathon. Friends provides the volunteers for the Aid Stations and participants (both volunteers and runners) always have a lot of fun.

Projects we are working toward in 2012 include cleaning up the higher profile cemeteries at Croft, including the Lee and Foster Cemeteries, refurbishing more of the Lake Craig Bathhouse, more campsite improvements and trail work. Our wish list includes restoring the water line to McFadden Campground (a great location for group campouts), building a handicapped trail to the Advance America Bridge on the Palmetto Trail and getting foot trails around Lakes Craig and Johnson opened. We have lots of ideas and appreciate any further help and input.

As for media, we are in need of a new webmaster as our current one, Linda Henderson, has moved back to her home in Georgia to be close to her family. We also hope to start a newsletter and would appreciate any help with this. Croft State Park is a great place to play and we are committed to making it even better.

Friends of Croft meets every second Monday of the month at Billy D's on Pine Street. 6:00 if you want to eat and 6:45 for the meeting. Please consider joining us if you haven't already. Our next meeting is Monday, February 13. Also, it is time for membership renewal. Membership is \$25 per person or family. If you can't make the meeting, mail to Friends of Croft, P.O. Box 2107, Spartanburg, SC 29304.

Fern Powell
President
(864) 573-6531