

Friends of Croft
P.O. Box 2107
Spartanburg, SC 29302

November 28, 2010

Greetings everyone,

Thank you so much for your interest and support of Friends of Croft. I want to update everyone on our progress. Friends first began thanks to Mike Byars as a gathering of people in November 2008 who were interested in improving Croft. After gaining approval from Park Manager John Moon, as well as from state officials at SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, we formed our initial Board.

This Board held its first meeting in August 2009. I was elected President, Gary Biggerstaff as Vice President, Neal Morris as Treasurer and John Gutierrez as Secretary. Mike Byars, Steve Gelband, Jim Majors, Jeremy Raney, Bud Smith, Clary Smith, Eric Turner and Frank Wilson made up the rest of the Board. The Park Manager serves on the Board as an Ex-Officio, non-voting member.

We spent the last half of 2009 and most of 2010 on getting our 501(c)(3) non-profit status, developing our By-Laws, mission statement, logo, website (friendsofcroft.org) and brochure. We had a few projects to work on as well. Any of these items I am happy to share, just email or call. We are an open Board and welcome input and ideas.

Now the fun can begin! We have a list of projects to work on. Some of these are trail system restoration, landscaping, pier improvements, campground improvements and facility upgrades. It may be difficult to determine where to begin since the needs are many! One example is to improve the park office by upgrading the building and have a library with historical and natural park information as well as trail maps. I'd love to see a bookstore down the road...

Many of the projects we want to do will require funding. We have been operating on a limited budget and have relied on donations to pay for the start up costs. Neil Morris secured \$750 from Williams Pipeline to put toward trail or pier projects. We also will receive the proceeds from the Croft Half-Marathon Trail Run held November 13, 2010. Thanks to Seth Novak for his support! Hopefully we can find more grants to help with costs of projects.

Friends of Croft meets monthly the second Monday of each month at 6:30. We have been meeting at the Spartanburg County Library, but will move to Billy-D's on Union Street starting January 2011. I would like to see the general membership attend since the more folks who can give input, the better we can prioritize projects. I also would like to have short information/education presentations at these meetings. We will have Board elections in February and encourage anyone interested to participate. (The second Monday in February is Valentine's Day, so this meeting will be moved to the 3rd Monday on February 21).

If you have paid dues for 2010, THANK YOU! If you want to become a member or renew dues for 2011, please send check to our P.O. Box (at top of page). Individual or family (same household) is \$25. Other levels are Patron: \$100, Sponsor: \$250 and Corporate: \$500. Please include name, address, phone and email.

Happy Holidays!

Fern Powell

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