

Olustee Observer - July 2002
P.O. Box 382
Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040



Olustee Historical Exposition
September 21, 2002
Battle of Olustee Reenactment
February 14-15-16, 2003

<http://battleofolustee.org/>

Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization Membership Application

I wish to become a member of the Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization, and to support its efforts in maintaining a part of Florida's, and our nation's, history.

Check one: new member renewing member

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: work _____ home _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Please select your membership category:

Individual \$10 Family \$15 Patron \$30 Organizational \$50
 Individual Life \$100 Corporate Friend \$500 Corporate Sponsor \$1000

Make checks payable to: "Olustee Battlefield CSO," and mail to:
Olustee Battlefield CSO, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, Florida 32040

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From the President

The Expo is on September 21, 2002. It will be only one day due to staffing problems we have had the last couple of years. The reenactment will be held on February 14, 15 and 16, 2003. On Memorial Day weekend the CSO was represented at the Florida Folk Festival at White Springs at the Steven Foster State Park. Our booth was manned by **Jerry Herren** all three days, with support on different days by **Amber Thrush, Dean** and **Anita Larrimore** and **Larry Skinner**. It was a great success. We gave out brochures and told people about our great park. We talked Civil War and sold a few items. I want to thank all that helped for taking time out of their holiday weekend to donate time. - **John Thrush**

Expo Press Release

Martha Nelson issued a press release on the Expo. Please distribute it to local papers and other media. Contact her at Martha.J.Nelson@dep.state.fl.us for copies.

The Expo:

Visitors can eat lunch with the soldiers and learn about the progress of the war during the Civil War Expo on September 21 at Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. First-person impressions of camp cooking will be presented by Danny O'Neal and Pat Haygood of Lake City. Living history presentations of war provisions and soldiering will include several reenactors at the Expo.

The camp lunch is a new living history event featured at this year's Olustee Civil War Expo, a weekend of authentic military drills, exhibits and historic talks with reenactors, period artisans and sutlers.

Demonstrations of authentic weapons and fighting tactics used in the Civil War will be presented by artillery, infantry and cavalry units. A ladies' tea coordinated by **Shorty Merritt** and a history talk also are planned. CSO President **John Thrush** is seeking additional relic collections to expand the exhibits area.

The Civil War Expo will be open to the public from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 per vehicle. All proceeds benefit the Olustee Battlefield Citizens Support Organization and Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. The Olustee Civil War Expo is sponsored by the CSO, the Florida Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

If you would like to take part in the living history demonstrations at Expo, contact either Ranger Frank at 386-758-0400, e-mail Francis.Loughran@dep.state.fl.us or Martha Nelson at 386-397-7009, e-mail Martha.J.Nelson@dep.state.fl.us. Web site at <http://battleofolustee.org/>.

Museum of the Confederacy

Martha Nelson reports that the National Museum of the Confederacy in Virginia plans to honor Florida's role in the Civil War. The Museum's event is planned for April 2003. Martha writes, "Ranger **Frank Loughran** has been in touch with them by phone. They plan to have Jeb Stuart IV as a speaker. Frank and I talked about the possibility of setting up a display with information about the Olustee battle, park and reenactment. That would entail sending Frank and/or CSO member(s) to attend the event." In her last communication with me, Martha states that they haven't developed plans any further than this.

Civil War at the Smithsonian

Here is a recent review of this site at <http://civilwar.si.edu/>. "This site succeeds in its mission of 'collecting, preserving, and remembering America's most profound national experience.' Nearly a dozen Smithsonian museums contributed photos and descriptions of items relating to the war. An iron slave collar symbolizes the Southern institution that led to the violent division between the states. Compare this with the inkwell Lincoln used to write the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. Through descriptions of the meager provisions and exhibits of artificial limbs, the site details the hardships both sides endured. The site's timeline helps put the collected items in historical context." - **Tom Fasulo**

Board of Directors' Meetings

Paul Duran presented the Treasurer's Report and stated that there was approximately \$52,000 in the Smith Barney Account and \$57,000 at the Southtrust Bank checking account. Mr. Duran recommended that some of the funds be moved into an investment account with Baird Investments. There is a \$75.00 Annual Service Fee and they will also issue up to four Debit Cards for use by Board Members for needed purchases. This account would also pay higher interest rates. The Board discussed leaving monies in the SouthTrust Bank to pay bill and expenses and to use the account with Baird for emergencies. Mitzi Nelson made a motion to move up to \$80,000 to Baird Investments. The motion passed. John Thrush thanked Paul Duran for all the work and effort that he put into the research of these investment accounts.

John Thrush and **Don Hillhouse** are working on a Union Casualty List. This requires some money to aid in obtaining the information. Mr. Thrush said that it would cost approximately \$3,000-\$5,000. At the present time, almost 1600 Union Casualties have been confirmed. Once compiled, the booklet would be another sale item as well as an educational tool. It was suggested to have another booklet address weaponry, arms, cannons etc. A motion made by Gene Ingram, to authorize John Thrush to spend up to \$5,000 for the needed research to compile this information, passed.

Kevin Patton asked the Board to purchase a couple of books for Rangers to use for Interpretative Programs - up to \$100.00. Anita Lauramore made a motion to secure any books that are purchased and that a library be started for any volumes received. Books could then be checked out. The motion passed. Members are asked to donate books on Florida and the Civil War to the CSO. Wilahmena Lauramore made a motion to place Anita Lauramore in charge of handling any books that are purchased or received by the CSO. The motion passed. - **Mitzi Nelson**

Committee Reports

Museum Committee - John Thrush reported that **Gene Ingram** resigned as chairperson for this committee. Wilahmena Lauramore suggested that **Gary Dickinson** take over as chairperson. Thrush suggested that as soon as a final draft was received from Hughes/Bowman, a meeting be set up with everyone involved and the draft discussed. Park Manager, **Valinda Subic** stated that the monies that are being spent with Hughes/Bowman will still apply to the Partnership in Parks Program (a 60-40 match grant program).

Reenactment Committee - Wilahmena Lauramore said that everything went well at the February Reenactment and several compliments were received praising how well the event was run. The Reenactment Committee is considering some changes, including increasing sutler fees.

Library Committee - Anita Lauramore reported that she acquired a couple of volumes for the new library. She suggested the CSO purchase a property stamp and some binders for magazines. This was approved by the board. - **Mitzi Nelson**

Florida Civil War Books

If you'd like to donate some books to the CSO library or just buy some for your own library... The July 2002 issue of The Civil War News reviewed **Discovering The Civil War In Florida**. The complete review is available on The Civil War News Web site at <http://www.civilwarnews.com/>. Here is a summary of that review: "The author attempts to remedy the long-neglected story of Florida's role in the war. He does a credible, if unorthodox, job. His method is to cover the action around each major town as a separate chapter. Within that chapter is a summary of military activity that took place around the town, followed by official reports or eyewitness accounts written by people who were there. Finally, he ends each chapter with a summary description of sites that can be seen around that town." I checked and Half.com offers a Like New copy of the paperback for as little \$16.81 and a Like New quality hardback for as little as \$21.91 (both prices include shipping but these copies may be sold when you access the site). List price is \$24.94 (hardback) and \$18.95 (paperback) not including shipping. Half.com is an excellent place to buy Like New, Very Good, Good or Acceptable quality books at much lower

prices than available elsewhere as most books are offered by individuals.

The Civil War News also reviewed **J.J. Dickison-Swamp Fox of the Confederacy**, \$14.95 (softcover). The book was favorably reviewed, but the reviewer states the illustrations are of reenactments and the drawing of the Union ironclad on the cover look nothing like the side-wheel ship USS Columbine that Dickison's cavalry actually sunk. - **Tom Fasulo**

Col. Charles Zachry

Posey Howell is the great granddaughter of Col. C.T. Zachry, commander of the 27th Georgia Infantry at the Battle of Olustee. She provided **Mitzi Nelson** with a copy of a "veteran's picture" with his brothers, one of whom also served with the 27th. Our Web site says this about the 27th Georgia: "...it suffered seventy-four casualties, seven killed and sixty-seven wounded. (A wartime book lists eighty-seven killed and wounded.) The regiment, held in reserve in the first part of the battle, was ordered forward around 4:00 p.m., and it 'immediately charg[ed] the enemy, contributing greatly to the utter rout and demoralization of the enemy.'" The photograph is reproduced on the cover of this issue. A larger image is the August Olustee Photo of the Month on the Web.

Web Site News

Except for a number of minor additions to some files and regular site maintenance, not much has happened on the Web site since the last letter. The biggest addition was a copy of a letter from **Col. George P. Harrison**, who commanded the Second Brigade, C.S.A. at the battle. This letter was addressed to the army adjutant and

contained the names of men Harrison commended for Gallantry. The letter is available on Harrison's page or under Latest Additions. The site is still receiving 75 to 100 hits per day if you use the counter on the main menu.

District 2 CSO Meetings

The 2003 District 2 CSO Meeting dates and CSO hosts are: January 17, 2003 hosted by Friends of Paynes Prairie; April 19, 2003 hosted by the Friends of Ichetucknee; and August 16 2003 hosted by Sarabay Society. The training topics include Leadership, Approval Process through the Florida Park Service for Projects and Relationships between CSOs and park employees. CSO members are welcome. - **Jennifer Paul**, Park Program Development Specialist

Southern Vipers

On May 28, CSO member **Bob McLendon** was clearing some old logs on his property in Alabama, and ended up spending more time in Alabama than he had planned. Here is the story in Bob's own words: "I was bitten on my right arm by the largest rattlesnake I have ever seen. He came out of nowhere, and if he rattled, I didn't hear him. I was running a chainsaw at the time. I immediately called 911, and an ambulance took me the 15 miles to the hospital. I was in ICU for 3 days, and in the hospital for a total of 7 days. They gave me 20 vials of anti-venom. The pain and swelling in my arm was tremendous. On day 19, I developed an allergic reaction to the antibiotics. I am now off of the steroids, and all medication, but still have very little stamina. I have to take a nap to get through the day, and still have limited strength in my right hand. I haven't been to Florida in more than 6 weeks, as I just don't have the

stamina to make the drive. Hopefully, I will be able to soon. The doctors say I will fully recover, but it will be at least 6-8 more weeks, and I may have effects for up to 6 month's... And I thought all you had to do was get to the hospital for the anti-venom, and then everything was okay. The venom goes through your whole system. I'm lucky that I apparently won't have long-term heart damage, etc., but 1/8 inch either way and the fang would have struck a main artery or vein. So, it could have been worse. I expect to be okay long-term, but can't really predict how active I will be able to be in the next few months. - **Bob McLendon**

We all wish Bob a speedy recovery

Changes in Event Coordination

The multi-layered tasks of coordinating the reenactors, volunteers, law enforcement agencies, publicity and other aspects of the annual reenactment of the Battle of Olustee will be shared by **Elaine McGrath** and **Martha Nelson**, beginning with the preparations for the 2003 reenactment.

The job-share is one of the consequences of the decision by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to take over production of the Florida Folk Festival. The Folk Festival has been held in White Springs at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park for the past 50 years. In January of this year, the Florida Department of State decided to eliminate the Folk Festival from its budget and programming. The Florida Park Service, as part of the DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks, agreed to take over production of the folk festival. The added responsibilities associated with the folk festival required changes in work assignments among park staff. One of those changes pertains to the Battle of Olustee.

For the 2003 reenactment, Elaine will be handling the logistics and scheduling arrangements for the Battle of Olustee. Martha will be handling publicity, media requests, and educational programming. Many more people work with both Martha and Elaine to coordinate the reenactment, including the staff of the Florida Nature & Heritage Tourism Center, members of the Olustee Citizen Support Organization, Olustee Park Ranger Frank Loughran, the Blue-Grey Army, the U.S. Forest Service, and the members of the Gold Teacup Society. It takes many hands and many hearts to produce an event as large as the Battle of Olustee, and we are grateful for every one of them.

Elaine and Martha look forward to working with the supporters of the reenactment to make this year's event top-notch. Sutler and reenactor packets will be mailed in October (and also available on the Web site). Look for notices of both the reenactment and the Olustee Civil War Expo in [The Civil War News](#), the [Camp Chase Gazette](#), [Smoke & Fire News](#), and AAA's travel magazine, [Going Places](#), as well as regional newspapers. - **Martha Nelson**

Civil War Park Day

Volunteers, civic groups, and reenactors joined the CSO to perform maintenance projects at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park on April 6 as part of the Civil War Preservation Trust's Park Day.

Volunteers worked on cleaning the interpretive trail and at least one brave soul was willing to follow CSO President John Thrush on a hydraulic lift to paint the flag poles. After the chores were completed, volunteers enjoyed a pizza lunch provided by the CSO and then visited living history demonstrations by reenactors.



CSO President John Thrush and volunteer Jim Filhort inched their way up the flag pole with paint and brushes to complete a job that really needed to get done. Thanks for getting the lift and for painting the flag poles!

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) organized Park Day to help local communities maintain and restore Civil War-related battlefields, cemeteries and shrines. Olustee Battlefield Park Ranger Frank Loughran coordinated educational activities for volunteers who were willing to help care for the grounds and facilities of the historic site. In addition, the Civil War Trust provided free t-shirts to volunteers. About 35 people attended the event, including Brownie Troop 760 from Baldwin, Junior ROTC students from Interlachen High School, and the event's eldest volunteer, 83-year-old Frank Roush. Reenactors from the 48th New York included the Gidden family. The bravest volunteer was Jim Filhort, who helped John Thrush paint flag poles.



Members of Brownie Troop 760 from Baldwin sport t-shirts provided by the CWPT for volunteers who took part in maintenance projects at Civil War historic sites across the nation

The event was such a success that we are planning to participate in the CWPT's Park Day again. Possible projects for next year include painting the shop, expanding a sprinkler system, landscaping around the museum, cleaning and waxing trail signs, cleaning and upgrading hiking trails, and replacing a disintegrating marquis that is used to notify motorists along Highway 90 about upcoming events. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ranger Frank, either by e-mail at Francis.Loughran@dep.state.fl.us or by phone at (386) 758-0400. - **Martha Nelson**

National Scenic Trail

The first handicap accessible hiking trail along the Florida National Scenic Trail opened in June at Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park. The 1.3-mile loop is an



A Union soldier talked about the soldier's life with Junior ROTC students from Interlachen High School during living history demonstrations at Olustee Battlefield for CWPT's Park Day.

easy walk or a leisurely fat tire wheelchair excursion past red-cockaded woodpecker colonies in a pine and palmetto forest.

Named after the late Phil Nicewander, a forest technician who worked at the Osceola National Forest, Nice Wander Loop Trail was a project of the Florida Trail Association. Designed as an upgrade to an existing hiking trail, the new loop required construction of an elevated boardwalk and bench seating over an area of wetlands. The trail has a 6 percent incline, which makes it a perfect stretch for slow walkers and wheelchairs. Although the soft pine needle covering over the trail bed is suitable for fat tire vehicles, the Trail Association cautions that regular thin-tire wheelchairs will get bogged down in the sand. For more information about the trail, hikers may call (904) 387-6998.

Address Changes

If you moved, if there is a problem with your address label on the cover of this issue, or if the address is handwritten in, then you need to notify **Jerry Herren**, as he

maintains the mailing list for the CSO. It doesn't do any good to send me the corrections as I get the labels from Herren. His mailing address is Jerry Herren, 106 Orange Tree Road, East Palatka, FL 32131-7877. - **Tom Fasulo**

All The News That Fits

This is a different issue of the newsletter for two reasons. When I first started as editor I often had trouble obtaining any CSO news. In fact, one issue consisted mostly of a couple of paragraphs complaining that there was no news and the following issue was never mailed for lack of anything to report. Obtaining news from CSO members was almost as easy as getting reenactors to volunteer to wear wool in the summer here in Florida. This has changed, in fact, this July summer issue, which is usually very thin, has almost seven complete pages.

In addition to all the CSO members who have provided me with news for this and other issues, I especially want to thank Martha Nelson, our park information specialist, who sends me many items. In fact, I saved one or two of her items for the October issue.

Another reason this issue is different. Editing a newsletter lets you shape opinions as often you can control what people read. It also provides an outlet for those who feel the need to write. And there is often a feeling of accomplishment when an issue is finished and mailed out. But, for various reasons, I no longer wish to be the newsletter editor. So, if you have ever wanted to "be in control" then all you have to do is contact John Thrush at thrush@coj.net and tell him that you have always wanted to edit a paper and shape minds.

Please send your Olustee and other Civil War news and activities by CSO members to me at fasulo@ufl.edu. The next issue is scheduled for late October. Hopefully, we'll have a new editor by then and I'll forward your news I receive to him or her. I want to thank **Posey Howell, Bob McLendon, Martha Nelson, Mitzi Nelson, Jennifer Paul and John Thrush** for contributing to this issue.

Please remember to send me your newsletter information by e-mail or on diskette so I don't have to retype it. If you do send an article on printed paper, then I reserve the right to ignore it for one or more issues. Please understand that I am at a computer all day at work and the last thing I want to do when I get home is retype your article. - **Tom Fasulo**