

OLUSTEE OBSERVER

Volume 26

July 2010

Editor's Corner

Welcome to adventures in retirement land! When friends told me that I'd be twice as busy after retirement than I was when employed, I didn't believe them. Who could be twice as busy than a full time worker who was also a wife (husband), mother (father), grandmother (grandfather)?

I'm beginning to be a believer tho . . . the only thing missing is the paycheck! All of the activities that I used to daydream about (while working) have become a reality and keep me going from dawn to dusk. O.k., I lied about that one – from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm is more like it, but still . . .

The exquisite pleasure of doing what I want to do, at the time I want to do it and in the way I see fit to do it, is absolute heaven. And yes, reenacting and all of the preparations for future events is one of those activities that I love so much. I'm venturing into new aspects of the hobby (and life) that I never had time for before.

Old time, simple pleasures like learning to can fruit and vegetables, make jellies and chow chow, and growing a garden to produce the material to put in them. I love geneology and have made huge inroads into my paternal and maternal family lines by visiting our fantastic new library in downtown Jacksonville. They have a huge floor devoted to geneology with free use of computers and a website for that purpose. Many old census records and historic resource books from several states are in the library also. I've found time (and cheap flights on the computer) to visit with my daughters and grandchildren for more than just a weekend and have been relishing the return to close relationships with them. I've found the joy of taking better care of myself with time to eat good meals and endure hard workouts to keep my body in good working order. One other thing I love to do is to lessen the load that my husband has to carry around the house. When we both worked, we had chores to do after work almost every day, just so we could enjoy at least part of our weekends. Now, I can carry that load on my own with housework and yardwork done so we can both have a full 2 days of whatever we want to do every weekend.

So, to those of you who think you might put off retirement because you won't have anything to do (are there really any out there?) think again! It will be the best time of your life and well worth the wait and planning for it.

Cris

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- The Annual CSO Board of Directors meeting will be held on August 14, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. The Reenactment Committee meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the park ranger offices.
- The Olustee Expo will be held on September 11, 2010 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Articles of Interest

- **Membership dues**
Dues have been increased as of June 1, 2010 as follows:
 - \$20 for individuals
 - \$25 for families
 - \$200 for lifetime membership
- **Promotion**
Please see the exciting news below about our new District Manager, Donald Forgione, who was recently promoted to Division Director of the Florida Park Service. They could not have picked a better or more experienced person for the job, and many of the field staff and managers have a renewed faith in our leadership knowing that someone like Donald was hired to direct us into the future. If you are good friends with Donald, I know he will be glad to hear from you. As you might imagine, he is getting hit from every direction with email and calls, so please be patient for his response!

Benjamin Faure, Park Manager

EP Announces New Florida Park Service Director

~26 year veteran promoted to lead Florida's award-winning state parks~

TALLAHASSEE – Today, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Michael W. Sole and Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation Bob Ballard announced the selection of Donald Forgione as Director of DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks, also known as the Florida Park Service. Forgione is the first director to have worked his way up from a park ranger.

"Donald is the embodiment of the culture and service that Florida's state parks are known for throughout the nation," said DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole. "I am confident that Donald will bring visionary leadership, strong values and great experience to continue to maintain Florida as the best state park system in the nation."

A 26-year veteran of the Florida Park Service, Forgione began his career as a park ranger at Paynes Creek Historic Site in Bowling Green, Florida, in 1984. He has since worked his way up in the Florida Park Service throughout the state. He has served as assistant park manager, park manager, park law enforcement officer, as well as assistant bureau chief and bureau chief. For the last six years as District Two Bureau Chief, Forgione has provided overall management and administration of bureau operations for a 40 park network and more than 200 employees.

"I am truly in awe of the opportunity to be the leader of the Florida Park Service, an organization that I feel deeply connected to," said new Florida Park Service Director Donald Forgione. "I offer my sincerest thanks to my family, the staff, volunteers and mentors throughout my career who have taught me about the world's finest natural and cultural resources - Florida's state parks."

Forgione was raised in Palm Beach Gardens and has lived in the Sunshine State since age six. He has received certification in environmental conservation and law enforcement, as well as in park maintenance management from North Carolina State University and is a state certified burn manager. Since joining the Florida state park system, Forgione has garnered additional training from the Florida Park Service's Ranger Academy and Interpretive Workshop, the Nature Conservancy's Fire Leadership Course and the National Recreation and Park Association's Recreation and Park Executive Management course. Forgione has served as an instructor at multiple Ranger Academies in the areas of core values, land management, visitor services and facility maintenance.

Forgione has three children, four grandchildren and has been happily married for more than 30 years to Rosie Forgione. Forgione will bring with him a deep connection to the Florida Park Service values and a sincere commitment to the residents and visitors of Florida.

Jessica K. Sims
Program Coordinator, Florida Park Service

~~~~~

- Report on Web Site Stats by Thomas Fasulo

Web Site Statistics for the Battle of Olustee – **Monthly Totals for 2010** (<http://battleofolustee.org/>)

| Month              | Page Views    | Total Visits  | Unique Visitors |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| January            | 23,165        | 7,774         | 5,971           |
| February           | 44,555        | 12,112        | 8,849           |
| March              | 14,380        | 5,516         | 4,355           |
| April              | <u>12,562</u> | <u>5,569</u>  | <u>4,343</u>    |
| <b>2010 Totals</b> | <b>94,662</b> | <b>30,971</b> | <b>23,518</b>   |

## **Odds & Ends**

**Membership dues:** Send to Olustee CSO at P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040. Just in case you didn't see the notice above, dues have increased this year. Please revisit "Articles of Interest."

**Change of address:** Notify Cris Giddens at [Chifos@aol.com](mailto:Chifos@aol.com) or send notification with your next dues payment as above.

**Battle of Olustee Website:** <http://battleofolustee.org/>

# OLUSTEE CSO BOARD MEMBERS – 2010

Gary Dickinson, President

Eric Hague, Vice President

Mitzi Nelson, Secretary

Paul Duran, Treasurer

Thomas Fasulo

Frank Maloney

Bud Thayer

Arnold O'Steen

George Scott

Bill Danforth

Sue Bonifay

Bob Farrar

Wilhamena Lauramore  
*Reenactment Committee*

Cris Giddens  
*Newsletter & Membership*

## **Honorable Mention**

Ben Faure, FPS

Frank Loughran, FPS

Elaine McGrath, FPS

Olustee Observer

P.O. Box 382

Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_ home/work \_\_\_\_\_ cell

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select your membership category:** \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Life (\$200) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Olustee Battlefield CSO

Mail to: Olustee Battlefield CSO, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.