



INTRODUCING...



HEDDA LETTUCE will be your on-line personal shopper, discussing the latest juicy tidbits about the creatures and gifts that inhabit this most unusual gift and garden shop.

With the arrival of spring, we will open an on line gift shop where all our new and wonderful collections can be browsed. Details will soon appear on the Dunham Farms web site.

The complete Spring-Easter collection will open in Dunham Farms' on-site shops **Saturdays, March 19th** from 10a.m.-4 p.m. and **Sunday the 20th** from noon-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Gift shop hours will be Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from Noon until 4:00 p.m. and by special appointment.



Palmyra Cottage, built circa 1840, was decorated for an early Victorian era country Christmas.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS & MUSIC

Who knew how much work an event of this scope would be, especially when presenting it for the first time?! But with enthusiasm, support and willingness of many talented people, almost anything is possible. For the **Holiday Festival of Lights and Music** we were backed by amazing volunteers who gave time, energy, ideas and talent and we want to acknowledge them here.

Sara Swida and **Leah Poole** worked many hours decorating, herding volunteers, contacting, securing parking attendants, etc. They were remarkable. And we could not have survived without **Lindsay Swida**, who also acts as a Live Oaking re-enactor at Melon Bluff. He assembled almost all of the thirty Festival trees.

We also wish to thank the following friends new and old and the professionals who made this first festival run so smoothly.

Office & Publicity: **Charlena Bryant**, **Walter**, **Dreanna** and **Angel Clayton**, **Janet Dixon**, **Judy Hartley**, **Leah Poole**, **Terri** and **Ryan Willet**, and **Laura** and **Tom Wirht**.

Decorators: **Sara Swida**, **Lindsay Swida** and the teachers who spent hours with their classes making ornaments for the Children's Tree Exhibit.

Guides for buildings: **Dianne Behrens**,

Matt and Samone Norsworthy, **Wild Bill** and **Joyce Jarrell** at Palmyra Barn, historian **Dr. Chris Hendricks** and restorationist **Sonja Wallen** at Palmyra Cottage, and Ft. Stewart Museum Director, **Buck Meeks** at the main house, all of whom made the historic tours both personal and interesting.

The Spirit of Christmas, **Charlotte Foxx**, and **Don Hartley**, whose job must remain seasonally secretive

Kids' Crafts: **Dianne Behrens**, **Pam Henderson**, **Katherine Robinson**, and **Cathy Spacher**. The kids just loved it.

Food service: The generous **Seabrook volunteers** who produced that amazing barbecue dinner and especially, chef **Tracy White** for those barbecue ribs.

Gift shop: **Lysa Dixon**, **Celia Howell**, **Gloria Cook Osborne**, and **Cathy Spacher**.

Parking Cars: **Youth Challenge Program** and their directors.

And the music. Special words of gratitude go to our delightful friend, Jazz bassist, **Ben Tucker**, his band, and surprise singer, medal winner, **Kim Polote**, all of whom were perfection...and to lutenist, **Christopher Kohut** who provided the lovely candlelit concert in the main house...a rare treat as we seldom hear early music performed so beautifully in such compatible surroundings.

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FESTIVAL

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Model trains are a Christmas tradition and our special thanks go to the **Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club** for its five delightful train displays.

On the infrastructure side that the public never sees, our deepest appreciation goes to contractor **Bill Hardee** for finishing all the construction in time and to **Jeff McIntosh** for implementing the complex electrical plan and then quietly coming each night to make sure it all went well.

The tree light displays were the work of **Tracy White, Alonzo Bryant** and **Ronald Anderson** for whom the project developed into an obsession as they climbed higher and higher hanging more and more lights until, finally, we ran out. For 2011, we have promised them many more decorations and a cherry picker. Who knows to what creative heights they will rise?

And yes, there were many more, some we never met, and we are deeply grateful to every one of them.

Yes, we are going to continue the festival annually thanks to the encouragement and generosity of the people who backed us this time.

For 2011, we are planning six new activities for children all of which will be included in the ticket price.

Watch for updates on our website, www.dunhamfarms.com, our Facebook pages, our blog and on Twitter throughout the year.



Photo by Diane Kirkland

MELON BLUFF REDUCED OPERATING SCHEDULE

With the loss of long time friend and innkeeper, **Evelyn Stevens**, we will not be able to keep the Nature Center open on a regular basis. Instead, Melon Bluff will be open seven days a week **by appointment** for use of horseback riders (any size group) and groups of six or more hikers, educational tours and bicyclers, and for special events. Day use will be Riders: \$15/horse. Hikers, educational tours and bicyclers: \$5/person. Children under five years old are free but will not count toward the six person minimum. Special events & guided walks: \$10/person, Call Dunham Farms at 912-880-4500 or email us at info@dunhamfarms.com. As a result of this sudden staff change we were not able hold the **third Annual Arbor Day Photo Competition** in February, as planned, but this annual event that we began will be held again next year beginning as before on Georgia Arbor Day which is Melon Bluff Nature Center's traditional very special event day.

IN MEMORIAM



Evelyn Stevens (right) shares a celebratory moment at Meredith's birthday party last October along with Laura and son Jerome. (Photo by Tom Wibrt)

EVELYN OSBORNE STEVENS was our long-time trusted friend and Assistant Innkeeper who passed away December 27th. All who knew her were engaged by her smile, the way it crinkled the corners of her eyes, and were impressed by her strength and the courage that saw her through incredible events and made her a survivor. Ev's voracious search for knowledge made her one of the most informed persons we knew. It was a pleasure to discuss anything with her because her ideas were uniquely her own. She was a joy to know, a comfortable friend who made it easy to share both happiness and heart ache. The empty place she leaves is huge. There can be no substitute for Ev, a special, loving and remarkable woman. She is missed and we wish her a beautiful journey.

POSTSCRIPTS

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SPRING GARDEN TOURS



For anyone who loves the beauty of flowering gardens under magnificent heritage oaks, one of our garden tours provides a magical moment. Last year we planted **1,000 bulbs** and we have **over 500 heritage camellias and azaleas** in our several gardens. Spring is embellished by blossoming native plants such as redbud, dogwood, sweet shrubs and wisteria. It is a lovely experience. Schedule a group tour for six or more and we can add one of our delightful **luncheons or high teas** from now until April.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

At Dunham Farms we are called upon to do many wonderful things such as guiding tours of gardens, plantations, and marshes on foot and by kayak and giving talks on a host of subjects from forests to history. If any group is interested in a special tour or a presentation at their own location, the following are available topics offered during 2011. We provide artifacts, visuals, etc.

- Live Oaking & The Live Oak Registry
- Forests, a buffer against world collapse
- Historic restoration at Seabrook Village:
The compelling story of a hand-made dream.
- The Civil War...A coastal story (In keeping with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.)
- Plantation History...fascinating story of Springfield Plantation, the oldest intact land-grant plantation on the Georgia coast continuously owned by the original family

-The Changing Marsh

Call 912-880-4500 or email

info@dunhamfarms.com for details.

SAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" WITH NUMBERS



None of us is aging backwards, and we can't stay 39 forever. So why not celebrate the real thing with close friends? Reserve an overnight at Palmyra Barn including a fabulous birthday celebration?

Dunham Farms is reinstating **birthday theme parties**, for example: **Fabulous 50, Sweet 60, Serene 70, Eccentric 80, Never-Say-Never 90, Hallelujah Hundred**, or whatever sweet or outrageous label you devise. In any case, the occasion will be filled with laughter, warm memories, fabulous food, and an unforgettably good time!

HEADS UP! HERE COMES OUR COOKING SCHOOL... AND THE COOKBOOK!

In response to countless pleas to move back home with our wonderful guests, this summer **Meredith and Laura** will conduct three cooking classes at Dunham Farms that will earn you consistent, "How did you do that?" comments from your impressed peers. And, yes! Our long-anticipated cookbook **Sauce and Sass** will be out later this year. And, yes, the bacon recipe is in it!



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2010 Holiday Festival of Lights & Music Photos by Diane Kirkland

1-Ben Tucker Trio; 2-Natural Tree; 3-2010 Spirit of Christmas Charlotte Foxxx;
4-Gold Fairy Tree; 5-Model Railroad; 6-Children greet Cruise the Horse; 7-The Blue Tree;
8-Dogwood Tree; 9-Spy's View with Cruise; 10-Santa; 11-Wagon Ride;
12-Sparkle Globe; 13-The Growing Tree (14' in 2010); 14-1840s Palmyra Cottage;
15-Baby Shoes at Palmyra Cottage



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PLANTATION HISTORY MONTH

In celebration of the 256th anniversary of the founding of Springfield Plantation and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, Dunham Farms will be offering a series of special tours and events throughout the month of April.

Capping off the series will be a special booksigning and talk by the authors of *Crossroads of Conflict*, a travel guide to Georgia's Civil War sites published by the Georgia Civil War Commission with the Georgia Humanities Council and the University of Georgia Press **Barry L. Brown** (below right) is heritage tourism specialist for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. **Gordon R. Elwell** (below left) is a former program coordinator and administrator for the Georgia Civil War Commission, retired command historian for the Georgia Army National Guard, and is currently historian for the Georgia State Defense Force.

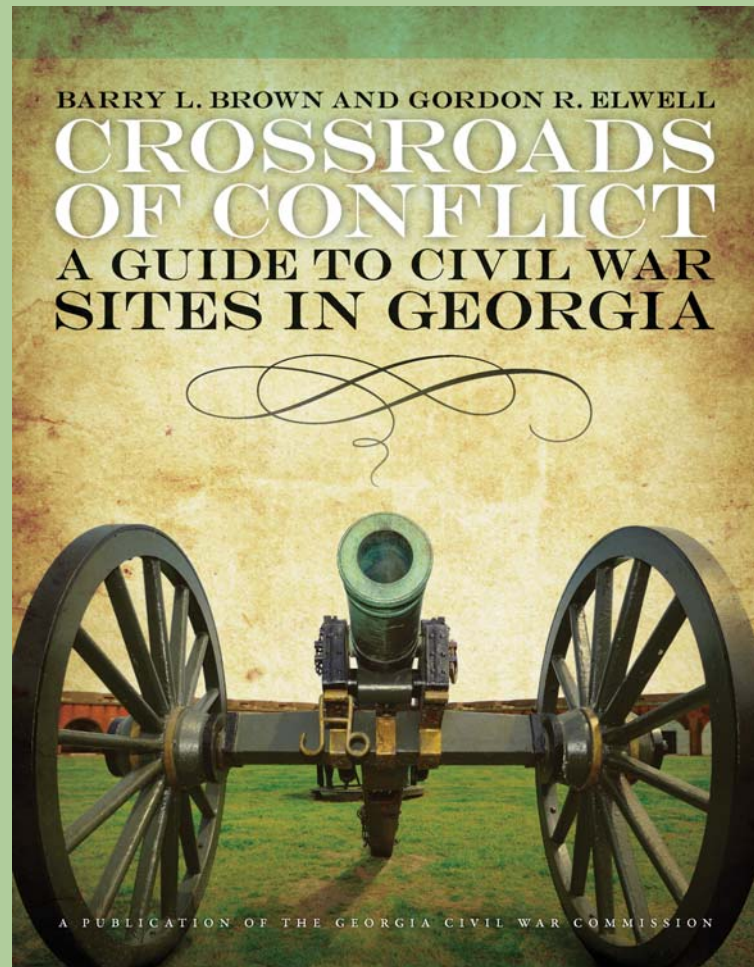
The booksigning will take place on **Saturday, April 30**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Dunham Farms. Copies of *Crossroads of Conflict* will be available for purchase as well as *Images of America: Liberty County* by innkeeper **Meredith Devendorf** who will be on-hand to sign copies of her book.



Photo courtesy of Gordon R. Elwell



Photo courtesy of Georgia Department of Economic Development



Crossroads of Conflict features neighboring Fort Morris State Historic Site. Plan a visit to this fascinating earthwork on your next trip to Dunham Farms!

EASTER EGG HUNT BY KAYAK RETURNS!



This crazy twist on an Easter tradition places egg-hunters, armed with goldfish nets, in kayaks to collect plastic eggs. Prizes are awarded at a dessert reception following the event. Children 12 years-old and up are welcome to participate in the kayak egg hunt, and all participants must certify they can swim. Those wishing to stay on land may seek eggs in a traditional hunt. Reservations essential!

LOWCOUNTRY FOODWAYS PROJECT

Meredith Devendorf is still working on her doctorate in American history at the University of South Carolina where she is focusing on environmental history and archives. She was hired in December to conduct a preliminary survey of resources pertaining to Lowcountry Foodways from St. Augustine, Florida, to Wilmington, North Carolina. A 10-month fellowship, the Lowcountry Foodways Project is a joint initiative of the Avery Institute and Trident Technical College in Charleston, South Carolina. The project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal governmental agency charged with library, museum, and archival initiatives and funding. Needless to say, this project is both intellectual AND tasty!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Check the website for the full monthly event calendar. ALL YEAR: Normal active military lodging discounts are 20%. Check for special holiday discounts as well. ALSO, DUNHAM FARMS CAN ARRANGE PRIVATE FISHING, BIRDING AND ISLAND BEACH BOAT TRIPS FOR UP TO FOUR PASSENGERS. THESE DELIGHTFUL EXCURSIONS SHOULD BE BOOKED VERY, VERY EARLY.

MARCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 18-SUNDAY, MARCH 20

FULL MOON WEEKEND Includes all things wonderful that are possible to do on the full moon including moon rise watches, huge tide paddles, full moon walks and much more. See website.

APRIL

PLANTATION HISTORY MONTH

FRIDAY, APRIL 15-SUNDAY, APRIL 17

FULL MOON WEEKEND Includes all things wonderful that are possible to do on the full moon including moon rise watches, huge tide paddles, full moon walks and much more. See website.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

EASTER EGG HUNT BY KAYAK. This hilarious event offers prizes for everyone who can manage to scoop eggs out of the river with a goldfish net. Check the website for details.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

CIVIL WAR 150TH ANNIVERSARY book signings (see page 6)

MAY

SUNDAY, MAY 8

MOTHER'S DAY Beautiful walk in the magnificent Dunham Farms grounds followed by a lovely afternoon tea of sweets and savories with a special little gift for her.

FRIDAY, MAY 13-SUNDAY, MAY 15

FULL MOON WEEKEND Includes all things wonderful that are possible to do on the full moon including moon rise watches, huge tide paddles, full moon walks and much more. See website.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

ARMED FORCES DAY lunch and midday paddle. 20% military discount.



Full Moon Weekends

FULL MOON WEEKENDS include a 10% discount on lodging at Palmyra Barn for stays of two nights or more (Details for specific weekends are on the website.)

March 18-20

April 15-17

May 13-15

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 27-30

Special 20% military discount on lodging. Details on website.

Dunham Farms
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Seen this photo?
Tell us where on Facebook or Twitter
and register to win a kayak excursion for
4 with Meredith (in the green boat) at
Dunham Farms...where Diane Kirkland
took this classic picture!