



Membership in the Friends of Georgia State Parks has its privileges! Members get free admission to all Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites, as well as a free night of camping or round of golf (without cart), tickets for the SAM Shortline Railroad, and discounts at state park shops.

A one-year individual membership is \$45 and includes a state park parking pass, an individual historic site pass, one night of camping or round of golf and one adult rail ticket. The family membership is \$70 and includes two park passes, up to six historic site passes, one adult and one child rail ticket, and two nights of camping or rounds of golf. There are also higher levels of membership with more perks. Friends membership is a great value, as a state park pass alone costs \$30.

Members choose to be affiliated with a specific chapter. That chapter receives a portion of the membership fees to help the park.

To join, go to:
www.friendsofgastateparks.org
or call 770-975-7533.

The Chattahoochee Bend group is planning a Web-site link on the state friend's Web page, which should be active shortly.

Friends of “The Bend” Announce Chapter Charter

February 25, 2009

NEWNAN, Georgia — The board of directors of the Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park are pleased to announce that the chapter has been officially chartered into the Friends of Georgia State Parks organization.

The state Friends organization is comprised of dedicated individuals who support Georgia state parks in many ways, such as through volunteer work and financial and legislative support. Local chapters devote support to their local parks by contributing manpower for maintenance, educational programs and other volunteer work.

Chattahoochee Bend will be a 2,900 acre State Park located on the Chattahoochee River in the northwest corner of Coweta County, Georgia. The park will feature many miles of trails, river access points and camping sites. Construction Phase 1 will begin in 2009 and will focus on the southern side of the park.

The land for the park was purchased by the state in 1999, and includes an area known as Flat Rock, plus several miles of river frontage. The land was slated to be developed as a state park. The Coweta County government hired an environmental engineering firm in 2005 to design several development plans. Those plans were presented to Coweta citizens in a series of town hall meetings. Paper and online voting determined the best plan to present to the State.

State Representative Lynn Smith (R-Newnan) used that plan to secure funding for the park in 2006. With the assistance of Senator Mitch Seabaugh (R), Rep. Smith secured \$7 million in funding for Phase 1 construction.

“While it was generally slated to be a park, it most likely would not have been developed for another 10 or 15 or 20 years from now — if ever — if it had not been for the support and enthusiasm” of Coweta County government, said Friends of “The Bend” President Dean Jackson, during the February 17, 2009, County Commissioners meeting.

During that meeting the board thanked the Commissioners for their immense support — Coweta County offered to improve Flat Rock Road from Bud Davis to the park entrance, and provide assistance to the Georgia’s Dept. of Natural Resources to develop the main road inside the park.

The Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park is beginning a membership drive and will be hosting park clean-ups, beginning on February 28, 2009 (additional press release follows).