

Opening day at Old Mulkey, Fliers, flowers and forestry walks



A FLOCK OF WILD TURKEYS foraged on the park grounds last week, perhaps looking for hiding places prior to the April 1 birdwatching walk.

By ANNE PYBURN CRAIG
anne.craig@jpinewsw.com

Old Mulkey State Historic Site Director Sheila Rush says planning an

event for April 1 is an interesting experience. “Both my out-of-town presenters looked at the date and said, “This is for real? You’re not kidding?” she says. “Nope,

no joke at all. But it ought to be a really great opening day.”

The park is open through the winter by appointment only; now Rush is

getting geared up for the opening and has her seasonal assistant, Charles White, back on the job. To celebrate re-opening for the season, they’ve planned Flora Fauna Forestry Fun, a free day of educational nature activities for the community to enjoy.

Get to the park by 7 a.m. -- gates will open at 6:30 -- and you can join ornithologist Stephen Stedman on a birdwatching walk. Stedman, Professor Emeritus in the English Department at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, is a leading expert on birds of the Upper Cumberland Region and was the regional editor of Central-Southern Region American Birds from 1991 through 2000.

“If you’re really into birding, you’re likely to know the name -- he’s renowned in birding circles, especially in Ten-

nessee,” says Rush. “He has a huge passion for ornithology.”

Then at 10 a.m., there will be a wildflower walk led by Ralph L. Thompson, Professor Emeritus of Biology at both Berea College and Murray State University and probably the most knowledgeable man alive on the subject of wildflowers in this area. “When I first got here in ‘07, Ralph had already begun inventorying the vascular floral species in the park,” says Rush. “He had special permission to remove specimens for research, and he’s written about the flowers extensively. I learned a lot just hanging around near him and asking questions -- he’s a very personable guy.”

At 2 p.m., Rush and White will lead “Forestry Fun.” The birdwatching walk is for adults only; the rest of the day’s programming is suitable for all ages. “So that’s

a considerable level of expertise, coming right here to Tville for free,” says Rush of the two professors. “An amazing wealth of knowledge. People interested in local birds or flower species can get an amazing kickoff for their season and get their questions answered. And the day is planned as an a la carte menu -- feel free to come to any of the programs that interest you or stay for them all and spend the day with us.”

The free events will take place Saturday, April 1 (no fooling!) at Old Mulkey Meetinghouse State Historic Site, 38 Old Mulkey Park Road in Tompkinsville; starting from that date, the park will be open every day from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. through November 15. For more information call Rush at 270-487-8481.

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JOAN ANDERSON served a 50th anniversary cake to employees as guests.



KERRY ANDERSON thanking employees for their loyal service

nailers,” Graves said. “In 1978, Billy Joe formally incorporated with the family as officers, which they still are. In 1994, we purchased the first CNC programmable router, and we now have six -- those allow us to make just about anything.”

After a few friendly words from State Representative Bart Rowland, it was time to recognize the real stars of the show -- 48 employees who’d each been with the company for ten or more years were awarded plaques. (“Do I get



A DISPLAY OF ANDERSON PRODUCTS welcomed everyone to the party.

to kiss everyone?” joked Joan. “Y’all are some good-looking boys.”)

“We have been so richly blessed with loyalty,” observed operations manager Joshua Anderson as he handed out the awards amid rounds

of applause and some laughter. And before the crowd left to return to their tasks, Kerry had a few final words. “Every job here, from the smallest to the largest, is important,” he said, “and without what you do, I couldn’t do what I

do. We think of all of you as part of the family, and anything we can ever do for any of you, we will.”

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Kentucky Volunteers Needed

Civil War battlefields, historic sites clean up

Special to Jobe Publishing, Inc.

This spring, Kentucky volunteers will team up with the Civil War Trust to aid in the maintenance and restoration of numerous sites as part of Park Day, a nationwide effort that includes more than 130 historic sites in 30 states. Thousands of volunteers across the country will participate as Park Day celebrates over 20 successful years on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

Volunteers interested in participating in Park Day are encouraged to contact the individual sites listed below. Activities are chiefly outdoor jobs that range from raking leaves and collecting trash to painting signs and gardening. Volunteers will receive T-shirts, and some sites will provide lunch or refreshments. A local historian may also be on hand to detail the park’s significance.

Starting times vary at each site. Kentucky volunteers may sign up at the following locations:
Battle for the Bridge Historic Preserve, Munfordville, 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Tres Seymour at director@battleforthebridge.org
Volunteers will complete tasks

in the historic Anthony Woodson House, on the grounds around the house, and along the trails. Activities include trail maintenance, building and repairing fences, trash removal, landscaping and clearing brush. Drinks will be provided.

Battle of Richmond, Richmond, 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Phillip Seyfrit at phillip.seyfrit@madisoncountkyky.us
Volunteers will assist with both indoor and outdoor cleaning, including landscaping, trail maintenance and trash removal. Drinks will be provided. (Note: This Park Day site is holding its event on Saturday, April 15, 2017.)

Behringer-Crawford Museum, Covington, 1:00 p.m.
Contact: Regina Siegrist at rsiegrist@me.com
Activities include a hike to Battery Bates and Combs in Devou Park. Water will be provided.

Camp Wildcat Civil War Battlefield, London, 9:00 a.m.
Contact: James Cass at maxineand-

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