

News from the Creek

Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

Volume 16 Number 1

Visit our website at: www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

Fall Quarterly 2012

Happenings from the Board of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm

President's Message by Mary Anne Morgan

I don't know about you, but I can hardly believe it almost November! I confess it's my favorite time of the year. At this point, there is just the faintest hint of a change in the weather. As the fall progresses we, just as in Marjorie's day, enjoy peanut boils, cane grindings, Thanksgiving and other occasions to enjoy nature's bounty and each other. It's still a very special time at the Creek.

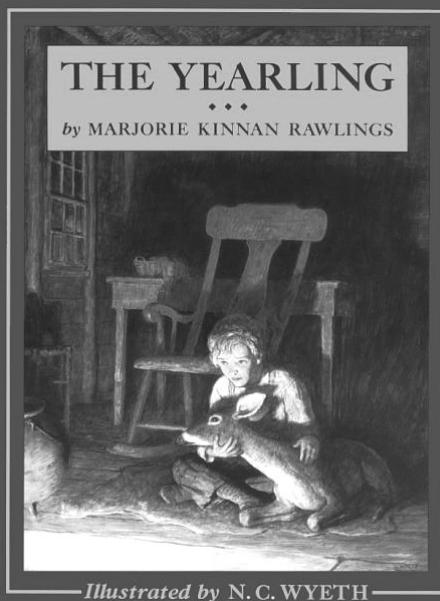
A fall activity that you will not want to miss is the Cross Creek Fall Festival on Saturday, November 17. The event will be held at the County Park (boat ramp) next to the MKR Farm. The Friends will have a table. The Festival always features arts/crafts, good food, and entertainment. Visit the Farm while you are there!

The President's Message in the last newsletter reported on the Board of Directors Planning Retreat held back in May. We have been busy since then following up on several of the ideas that came out of that meeting.

I don't want to give too much away here, but do you realize that we are coming up on the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Yearling*? We think that is an anniversary worth celebrating! And celebrate we will with what we have come to think of as "The Year of *The Yearling*: From Publication to Pulitzer."

The Year of *The Yearling* will kick off with a special event in April, 2013 and will be followed by a variety of events and activities throughout the following twelve months. Keep an eye on our newsletter and our website as this effort unfolds.

Enjoy all that the season has to offer!



"Publication to Pulitzer: The 75th Celebration of *The Yearling*"

Watch for details of the programming for "Publication to Pulitzer: The 75th Celebration of *The Yearling*". The novel was published April, 1, 1938, and the Pulitzer Prize for American Literature was awarded to it in March, 1939. A committee of the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm with partners in the Gainesville Community as well as the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society is planning a number of celebration events from April 2013 through March 2014. In preparation, you might consider rereading *The Yearling*. The next newsletter will contain details of some of the events.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Editor

Sheila Barnes



This from the Alachua
County District Libraries
bulletin:

Join us at 7:00 on Novem-
ber 26 at Headquarters or
November 27 at Millhop-
per Branch as Karen
deVos reenacts the
memories of Marjorie
Kinnan Rawlings and her
life on "the Creek".

Cherry Wood Bed Comes Home

By Anne Pierce



In the summer 2012 Newsletter, we told you that after nearly a 60 year absence, Marjorie's original bed has returned to Cross Creek! She willed it to a college friend, and it has been in that family ever since. The beautiful cherry wood four poster bed is in keeping with Marjorie's fine taste in furniture. Here are more details about the acquisition.

The bed is in excellent condition. Unfortunately, there are no maker marks or dates of any kind on the bed. We don't know when Marjorie acquired the bed, but we do know that she had it in 1949 at the Cross Creek Farm.

In Marjorie Rawlings's will of 1949, she stated, "...I give and bequeath to my friend, James Edward (Jim) Hardy, Jr., of Louisville, Kentucky, my best four-post cherry bed, now at Cross Creek, Alachua County, Florida." Upon her death in 1953, the bed must have been shipped to Louisville. James Edward Hardy, Jr., had died in 1951, but his widow still lived in Louisville. In fact Hardy's wife, Lois Clark Hardy, was also mentioned in Marjorie's will in the following passage: "... I give and bequeath to my friend, Jean Lois Hardy, of Louisville, Kentucky, her choice of my two sets of dessert silver." Mrs. Hardy died in 1958, and a family member received the bed.

In June, the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm arranged with a shipper/packer to have the bed crated and shipped to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. The massive crate weighed 305 pounds and measured 66"x72"x10". The bed was very well protected and arrived unharmed.

The relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Hardy and Rawlings spanned the years from Marjorie's college days at the University of Wisconsin until Rawlings's death in 1953. Jean Lois Clark and Marjorie met while they were attending college. Marjorie married Charles Rawlings, her college sweetheart, and the two lived and worked in Louisville from

(Continued on page 4)



The moving crew with the MKR bed....if they only knew how invaluable it is!



Ranger Sheila Barnes pictured with the crating materials. Leave it to our fantastic resourceful staff to figure out uses for all this recyclable packaging.

Unexpected gift from Ms. Rawlings

By Rick Mulligan

Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter is the story of how Marjorie's original bed was returned to the farmhouse at Cross Creek after a nearly 60 year absence. Along with the beautifully carved four poster came a few other things we are referring to as gifts from Marjorie.



Packaging materials

The bed was fantastically crated so as to withstand virtually any calamity. It was secured within approximately three hundred pounds of the densest woods and thickest foam insulation batting. Using our best salvaging skills, more than 250 8-penny nails and 4" wood screws were backed out doing little or no damage to 4 2"X12"s of varying length from 4 to 6 feet, 8 2"X4"s, 6 sheets of 3/4" plywood and 6 panels of 2 1/2 inch thick 4'X8' "R" rated foam insulation.

Being that it was June and heat was on everyone's mind, the insulation was first to be used. Our otherwise excellent workshop on the back of the property is reminiscent, in summer, of "The Oven" used to torture Alec Guinness in *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. It is complete with corrugated tin roof and walls baking in the sub-tropical sun. A stout little window A/C unit works futilely against the massive solar incursion. Thanks to Marjorie's crate there was enough foil-backed foam insulation to cover the workshop ceiling with a 2 1/2 layer of "R" 27 life saving comfort. Now the little A/C unit stands a fighting chance and indoor work can proceed.

Another use popped up unexpectedly. There were two quite old, but not original, trellises standing sentry by the front door of the farmhouse veranda. The years had not been kind to them and the wood had split in several places, joints were coming apart and they were in a state of near collapse. Rather than trying to repair the sad pair, we used our newly acquired table saw to mill the crate's 2"X4"s into the exact sized wood columns and cross members needed to duplicate the delicate construction and curved top of the white trellises.

But that is only two of what will surely be many more gifts to come from the treasure of materials from Marjorie's crate.



One of the new front door trellis's

(*Bed.*, Continued from page 2)

1920-1921. Lois Clark had married James Edward Hardy, Jr., and they were living in Louisville also. MKR's biographer, Elizabeth Silverthorne, notes, "The closest friends of the young couple were Lois Clark Hardy, a sorority sister at Wisconsin, and her husband Ed, who was beginning to make a good living in the manufacturing business. One of the activities the two couples enjoyed was going together to the Kentucky Derby in May." (p. 47)

We are able to trace the Rawlings-Hardy friendship through letters by Rawlings. Ed Hardy was instrumental in introducing Rawlings to the Juniper Club members. Recall that the Juniper Club owned a large hunting tract in the area of Silver Glen Springs, Marion County, Florida. Calvin and Melvin Long of Pat's Island were guides for the club. Some of the Long Family stories were the basis for episodes found in *The Yearling*. The Hardys visited in Cross Creek in 1936; in 1939, Rawlings visited them in Louisville and went to the Kentucky Derby. Marjorie considered Bee (Beatrice Humiston), another college friend, and Lois Hardy to be her best life-long friends. Just months before Marjorie's death, Lois gave Rawlings a ride from Cincinnati to Van Hornsville, NY.

Obviously, Rawlings considered her lovely bed to be a very special piece of furniture; therefore, she wanted her dear friends to have it after her death. We are very fortunate to have Marjorie's "best four-post cherry bed" back in her bedroom at the Cross Creek Farm. Special thanks go to the Hardy family for the generous gift and to the Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm for paying for the crating and shipping of the piece. Please come by to see the bed soon.

Another Long Hot Summer

By Sheila Barnes

It doesn't take a stretch of your imagination to picture how uncomfortable Marjorie Rawlings must have been in her early years at the Creek. Living in an old Cracker house with no electricity, screens in the windows or indoor plumbing would test even the heartiest among us.



MKR's house in Upstate New York

Rawlings rarely mentions the oppressive heat of summer as being a hardship, but rather sees it as part and parcel to choosing to live in the Florida swamps. Few people know that she suffered bouts of Malaria twice. She weathered many discomforts in order to record the adventure she was experiencing in her new environs.

MKR was only 32 years old when she moved to the grove in 1928. In fourteen years she reached career zenith by having

won the Pulitzer Prize, signed a lucrative movie deal with MGM, and receiving hefty royalty checks for several books. She was then just 46 and enjoying summers in the north country of Upstate New York, and at the Crescent Beach cottage with husband Norton Baskin.

Thus, Rawlings did not have to endure the intense heat and humidity of Florida inland summers as she aged.

Meanwhile, those of us who care for her old farm, staff and volunteers alike, are far older than she was when she effectively left Cross Creek. All but one of us are 58+ with a few in our 70's, still enduring the long hot summers. And they seem to be getting longer and hotter the older we get!

The passage in *Cross Creek* about MKR being within "screaming distance" of her neighbors is the single most revealing, in terms of dealing with the elements, particularly the swarming mosquitos, which we have certainly endured *en masse* this year.

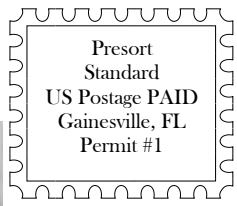
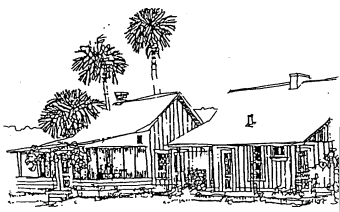
It's no wonder that in a letter Rawlings wrote from upstate New York to Norton Baskin, she says "I *love* it here!"



Chickens hanging out on back porch steps

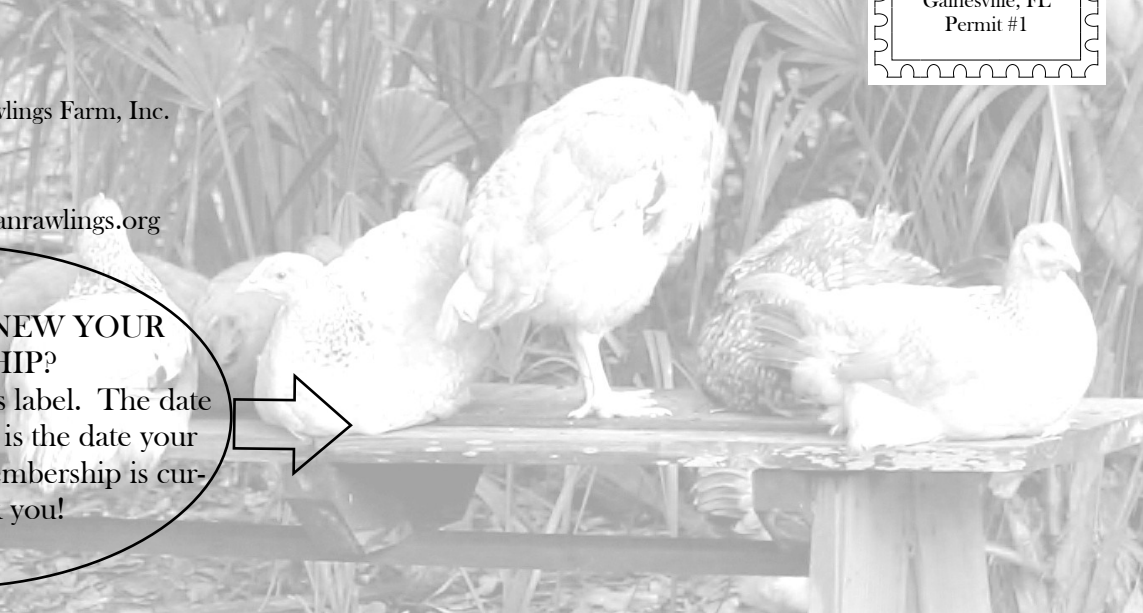
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 Danny and Judy Baker
 Catherine Beazley
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 Sybil Ann Brennan
 Mary W. Bridgman
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 Ginger Carter
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 M. List Underwood, Jr.
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 Colleen Whitlock



Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.
 P.O. Box 337
 Micanopy, FL 32667-0337
 Website: www.marjoriekinnanrawlings.org

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?
 Please check your address label. The date that you see on the label is the date your dues are due. If your membership is current, we thank you!



2012–2013 Friends of MKR Calendar

Saturday, **November 17, 2012**
 Sunday, **December 16, 2012**
 Tuesday, **January 15, 2013**
 Saturday, **March 9, 2013**
 Monday, **April 1, 2013**

 Tuesday, **April 16, 2013**
 Saturday, **May 4, 2013**
 Tuesday, **July 16, 2013**
 Saturday, **August 3, 2013**

Cross Creek Festival - 9 am–4 pm
 Holiday Brunch at the Farm - 11 am–1 pm
 Friends Board Meeting - 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House
 Scrub Trip: The Yearling Trail
 Kick-off of The Year of *The Yearling*: Publication to Pulitzer
 Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Publication of *The Yearling*
 Friends Board Meeting - 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House
 Annual Meeting - Island Grove Fire House
 Friends Board Meeting - 6:30 pm Cross Creek Fire House
 MKR Birthday Party at the Farm

<i>Membership Information</i>					
Type	1yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	Lifetime
Individual	\$20	\$55	\$90	\$175	\$ 400
Family	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$225	\$ 500
Educational	\$25	\$70	\$115	\$225	\$ 500
Corporate	\$50	\$145	\$240	\$475	\$1,000

Please circle type of membership and send with your check to:
Friends of MKRawlings Farm, Inc.
 P.O. Box 337
 Micanopy, FL 32667-0337

Membership in the Friends of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc.

We invite you to join or renew your membership in the Citizen Support Organization (CSO) for the MKR Historic State Park. Friends of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm, Inc., is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 (toll-free within Florida). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Name _____

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