

Rock Eagle 4-H Center
Environmental Education Program



Under the Rock

From the Coordinator's Desk



Greetings from Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Spring has arrived; we have three great blue herons on the lake; the snow goose has departed; and the turtles are out in force. Best of all, the students are back and the sounds of happy kids are echoing around the center. Our season appears full; I have a great staff on board; and we have lots of great projects in the works.

The first big thing you will notice upon arrival is the new guard gate and new lighting on the main road through the center. Several buildings have been remodeled and we have a new cabin that we hope will be a proto-type for replacing our current cabins in the future. Good news for many of our late spring schools is the additional canoe spot added to the lake. Now four groups can canoe at once, but it is still first come, first served so don't wait to fax those class request forms!

Not as obvious, but just as important are some class improvements. Lake Ecology has been reworked to better fit with Georgia Performance Standards. Students in sixth grade and up will assess Rock Eagle's lake using the scientific method and

chemical test kits. They will still get wet and have lots of opportunity to sample. Younger students will sample for aquatic life and explore the lake's food webs and ecology. Teachers' reviews on the new curriculum have been positive.

Last fall I sent videos out to all schools that were booked for this year. Please call if you would like a video. We are working on a new DVD/CD that will be completed by next fall. Our trip planner is now on-line at www.rockeagle4h.org. We will no longer send trip planners out each year, but please call if you have trouble downloading any of the information.

This season Rock Eagle 4-H premiered community learning experiences aimed at adults and families in the area. This is a chance for local folks to enjoy what our school groups have appreciated for so many years.

The most important part of the program is staff. This season's staff is some of the most talented and motivated folks we have had at Rock Eagle. If you are coming this season prepare for a great program. If you are not on the books, give us a call at (706) 484-2868 and plan for a great learning experience next year.

Sincerely,
Donna Stewart
EE Program Coordinator

Meet our Staff....

Donna Stewart

Environmental Education Coordinator
M.Ed. Adult Education, Univ. of Georgia
Eatonton, Georgia

Kelly Jo Scott

Environmental Education Assistant Coordinator
B.S. Wildlife Resources, Univ. of Idaho
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Becky Collins, Discovery Coordinator

B.S. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation,
Univ. of Florida
Winter Springs, Florida

Grant Crumbaugh, Project Coordinator

Associate Degree Outdoor Recreation and Leisure, Vincennes
Univ.
Templeton, Indiana

Michelle McClendon, Project WET Coordinator

M.S. Recreation & Leisure Studies,
State Univ. of New York at Cortland
Stockbridge, Georgia

Kelly Amoth, Instructor

B.A. English & B.S. Ecology, Univ. of Georgia
Duluth, Georgia

Vincent Bacalan, Instructor

B.S. Biology (Marine Science), Old Dominion Univ.
Suffolk, Virginia

Jennifer Boyd, Instructor

B.S. Biology, Georgia College and State Univ.
Jeffersonville, Georgia

Megan Connor, Instructor

B.S. Forest Resources-Wildlife, Univ. of Georgia
Lilburn, Georgia

John Dalupang, Instructor

M.S. Environmental Technology,
New York Institute of Technology
Manila, Philippines

Rick Espelage, Instructor

B.A. Visual Arts, Mt. St. Joseph College
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sarah Geddis, Instructor

B.A. Historic Preservation, Mary Washington College
Charlottesville, Virginia

Lester Hatfield, Instructor

B.S. Hotel & Restaurant Management,
Georgia Southern Univ.
Warner Robbins, Georgia

Sarah Hilger, Instructor

B.S. Forest Resources-Wildlife, Univ. of Georgia
Conyers, Georgia

Jelena Kocic, Instructor

B.S. Biology, Univ. of Belgrade
Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro

Brian McKnight, Instructor

B.S. Outdoor Education,
Georgia College and State Univ.
Milledgeville, Georgia

Sarah Olson, Instructor

B.S. Botany, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison
Neenah, Wisconsin

Paul Pickard, Instructor

A.A.S. Natural Resources,
Fox Valley Technical College
Kaukauna, Wisconsin

Jennifer Plourde, Instructor

B.S. Integrated Natural Resources, Univ. of Vermont
Wilbraham, Massachusetts

Cindy Rice, Instructor

M.S. Recreation & Leisure Studies,
State Univ. of New York at Cortland
Walton, New York

Elizabeth Rogers, Instructor

B.S. Early Childhood Education, Clemson Univ.
Charleston, South Carolina

Ted Roumell, Instructor

B.S. Agriculture & Natural Resource Communication,
Michigan State Univ.
East Detroit, Michigan

Craig Turner, Instructor

B.S. Geography, Radford Univ.
Blacksburg, Virginia

Stephanie Westmoreland, Instructor

B.S. Biology, Georgia College and State Univ.
Milledgeville, Georgia



The Rock Eagle EE Spring 2006 Staff visiting the Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences.



Across the Ocean to Rock Eagle

by Jelena Kocic



Hello, my name is Jelena Kocic and I am an intern from Serbia-Montenegro, a small and pretty country close to the Adriatic Sea. This is my first time in the U.S.A., and I am so happy that Rock Eagle is my home here! I fell in love with the center the first morning I took a walk around. The wonderful lake, the fresh air, and the squirrels and birds that are always somewhere within eyesight, make this place comfortable and easy to enjoy.

The thing that truly makes Rock Eagle so special is the people who work here. Not only did they make me feel welcome, but they make Rock Eagle a place where I want to be. They made me feel like a part of a team. They were supportive during staff training and helped me step into the unknown and learn. I am fascinated by the atmosphere here. I

believe it is because the people who decided to come and work at the center truly enjoy nature and teaching. I know that the positive attitude we have will reflect on the children coming here.

Getting to know the American culture is a big adventure. The way of life in the U.S.A. is very different than in Serbia-Montenegro. The biggest difference is the number of choices from food to entertainment to education. There are so many ways to do things in the U.S.A.! I get very confused when I pick out cereal in the store, so you can only imagine how overwhelmed I feel with all the other impressions. That is what makes my experience more fun!

I am looking forward to learning new things here at Rock Eagle, and I will try to do my best to give something back from my culture.

Rock Eagle Word Search

by Stephanie Westmoreland

Find some artifacts from the WordBank and circle them on the Rock Eagle!

K N R
 H I O T P L
 N O R S J Y T
 A T L
 S H B
 O S T E F F I G Y
 T S E W D Q T F P E P A R T I F A C T
 H F I O M S I R O C K E A G L E M O U N D
 S U M T T E K S A B I L S J W E S Q U E A S T
 J I T S E Y E L I T T L E E A G L E O C P R S W Y
 P M I O I O J P X I S T I S M
 T N I G O P O A L O G Y W
 Y S R L Z T R A U Q I
 W A S M T C D L A
 L P P O E H A R Y
 H R Z R A E S
 Y M I Y E H L
 P N H O W
 N U T L O
 H I S T O R Y
 B P N W H G R L I
 S O U T H M Y A A Y Z

Word Bank

- Archaeology
- Artifact
- Arrowhead
- Basket
- East
- Effigy
- History
- Little Eagle

Word Bank

- Mound
- North
- Pottery
- Quartz
- Rock Eagle
- South
- Stratigraphy
- Tools
- West

For the completed puzzle, visit our website at www.rockeagle4h.org!



Greetings from a Rock Eagle Alumna

by Lizzie Cox

(an British Intern during 2004-2005 school year)

I spent the better part of a year at Rock Eagle as an Environmental Education Instructor and since returning home I have often wondered how many people I spoke to within that year. One thing I do know is that children, teachers and parents alike all love their time at Rock Eagle, and it is an experience that makes memories to last a life time. The wide variety of classes means that there is something for everyone to enjoy, whether it be a herpetology class to learn all about the reptiles and amphibians

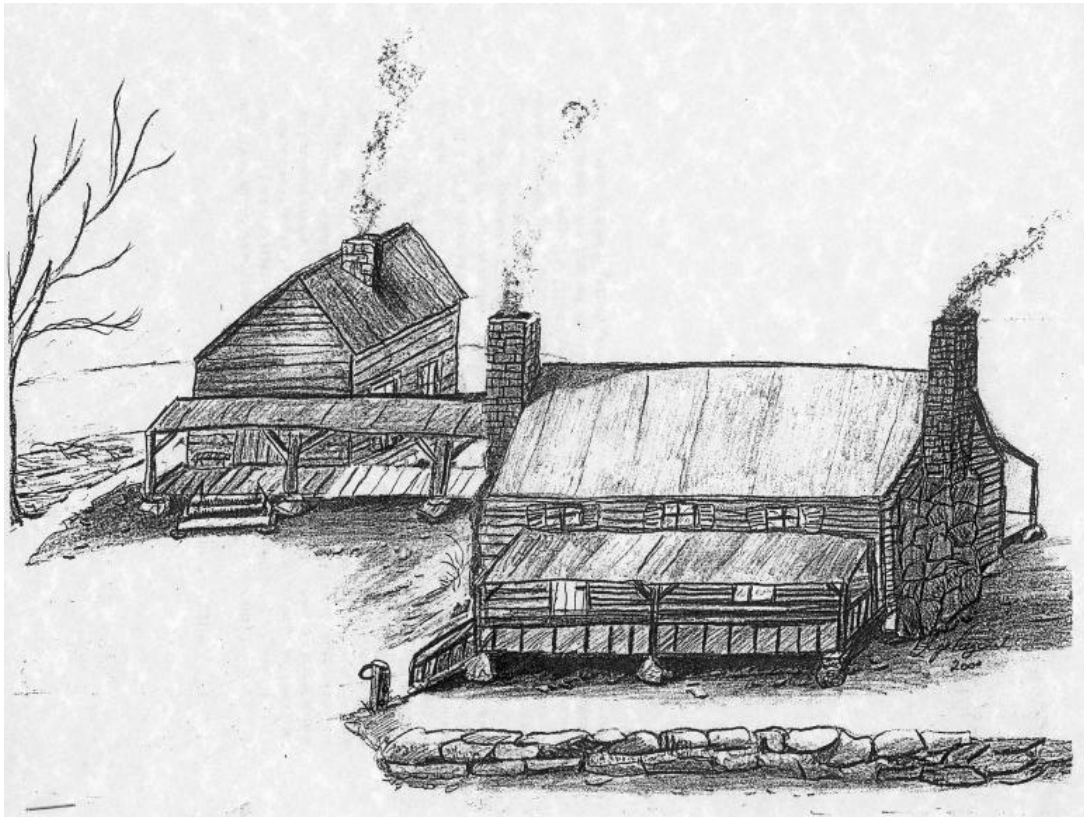
of Georgia, canoeing class for adventures on the lake, challenge course for games and challenges to get the group thinking or a great walk on the trails to see the Rock Eagle itself. So many classes to choose from also means your Rock Eagle instructor is never stuck teaching the same class, so you can guarantee they will be bright, breezy and enthusiastic! It seems very difficult to sum up the whole Rock Eagle experience in a few words, so my best advice is to come and see for yourself. It's a decision you won't regret - I certainly didn't, and I can't wait to come back!

A Historical Viewpoint of Rock Eagle Property

by: Rick J. Espelage

In the year 1807, a man named Giles Tompkins moved his family to Putnam County, Georgia. Some time after that year, Giles began buying tracts of land, then called lots. Each lot usually contained 202 acres more or less. Giles bought a total of 646 acres which became known as the Rock Eagle Plantation. In those years you were required by law to clear your land. Giles did this and

between the States, Irby and two of his sons joined the Confederacy. Irby and his son, Goodwin, returned after the war but Nicholas Ewing died in battle in 1864. Before the war, the land had an estimated value of 30 thousand dollars for 1,008 ½ acres. In 1874, it's value was five thousand dollars. After Irby's death in 1874, Goodwin took over the farm and kept it going as long as he could, but



The author's rendering of the Irby Hudson Scott home.

planted cotton on the cleared hill tops, except in the area of the Rock Eagle Mound. In the year 1838, Irby Hudson Scott married Mary Ellen Tompkins, the granddaughter of Giles. Irby purchased the plantation that same year for \$3,240.00 and built a home in this clearing. It was said that Irby and Mary Ellen could see the Rock Eagle Mound from their front porch. The Scotts began life on the farm and over the years added ten children.

Eventually life changed for all Americans. With the beginning of the War

gradually, like most farmers, the family began to sell sections of the plantation. By the 1920s, most of the land had been sold and the family moved the house to a relative's farm on Harmony Road. The last portion of the Scott Plantation, containing the Rock Eagle Mound, was sold to the Federal Government by Mrs. Florence Scott in 1936. In 1940, the Scott home was totally destroyed by a tornado. The Irby Hudson Scott Site was discovered in 1989 and underwent excavation.

Making Cordage

by Jennifer Boyd

Cordage was a form of rope used by Native Americans many years ago. However, modern rope is designed using similar methods. Now you can make your very own cordage that was used by the Native Americans:

Step 1: Finding a suitable material

Here at Rock Eagle, we use a plant called Water Hibiscus, or Swamp Rose Mallow to make cordage. It is believed to be the same plant used by the Muskogee (Creek) tribes that lived in our area.



Step 2: Preparing the material



Although dead stalks are easier to work with, a green stalk can also be used. You will need to strip the bark off of the stalk (try to keep

the bark in longer strands). This can be done by peeling the bark off of the stalk or, if your stalk is green, pounding the stalk with a heavy object to break up the pith (the stuff inside the stalk or stem).

Step 3: Now what?

Once you have the bark off, it is time to break it down to usable fibers. To do this you need to peel apart the strips that you have. Once this is done, you need to rub your hands together with the strips between



both palms. Keep rubbing until the strips look like horse hair (if you have never seen a horse, just look at a girl's ponytail to get an idea).

Step 4: Almost there...

Now, place the strips on a table or the ground. Select a few of the longer strips to start with and fold them in half. Do not worry if it is not even on both sides. While holding the strips in the middle, twist the strips clockwise. It gets a little tricky right here, but now you need to wrap the part you just twisted around itself going the opposite way (counterclockwise). A little loop should form to give you a good starting point.



Step 5: Just a little bit more...

Keep repeating the twisting motion with the cordage until you almost run out of

length. At this point you are going to

“splice” more strips into the cordage. To do this, select a few more strips. Lay the strips along one side of the cordage and begin twisting as before. You may want a small portion of the strips to poke out. Now, do the same thing to the other side and keep going until you get the length that you need. What to do with the rest? Well, practice makes perfect!



Not only can you make rope out of your cordage, the smaller lengths can be turned into a form of jewelry. By adding beads or shells to the piece of cordage, you can show off your new skills in style!

Hurricane Katrina: A Time to Remember

Groups scheduled to visit Rock Eagle last September found that their dates had to change. About 600 New Orleans residents took refuge at Rock Eagle for three weeks after their city was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Rock Eagle routinely hosts over 600 folks, so our staff was prepared to take on this responsibility, but it was an experience none of us will ever forget. Many of our guests had been on rooftops for several days and most had nothing with them when they arrived. A shower and a hot meal was their first priority. Some managed to save their dogs and they were allowed to bring them to Rock Eagle. The local animal shelter and humane society brought a vet and food the day they arrived. Our local community pitched in by donating clothing, food, diapers, toys, fishing poles, and so much more. Countless volunteers donated their time by wiping down dining hall tables, answering phones, and just being a shoulder to lean on. Rock Eagle appreciates the tremendous amount of support provided by the local community, and we are proud and happy to help these people during such a time of crises.

Thanks to All!!

The Rock Eagle Environmental Education Staff aim to provide the best program possible. The only way we can achieve this goal is through the hard work of all of Rock Eagle's staff. When you visit you may not see the folks that answer the phones, fix the computers, keep the books, clean the cottages, cook and plan the meals, wash the dishes, mow the fields, remodel buildings or repair the air conditioners. But all of these people have the same goal and are a vital part of making your stay a great experience. The environmental education staff salutes their efforts.

Project WET at your School!

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Georgia 4-H are pleased to announce their partnership in bringing Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) into the more rural areas of the state. Project WET is an interdisciplinary, international water education program for formal and nonformal educators of students aged 5 through 18. This exciting program facilitates and promotes awareness and stewardship of water resources through the dissemination of hands-on classroom ready teaching aids. All workshops will be lead on-site at your school with PLUs given for a 10-hour workshop.

The partnership is brought forth through a federal 319(h) grant with a goal of reaching at least 400 educators by the summer of 2007. If you are interested in Project WET training for your school please contact Michelle McClendon at (706) 484-2830 or wetcoord@uga.edu.

Super Sponsors!

The Environmental Education Program would like to recognize our **Super Sponsors**, those who have supported our animals in our **Sponsor a Critter Program**. We appreciate the help our supporters provide in caring for our animals. If you are interested in supporting one of our critters, see the insert of this newsletter or check out our website at www.rockeagle4h.org.

Super Sponsors for 05-06:

- Turner County 4-H
- Evansdale Elementary
(5th grade)
- Bill & Libba Johnson
- Austen Priest
(Sagamore Hills Elementary)
- Ryan and Austin Cattuzzo
- Lanier County 4-H
- The Garden Grubs
- Jr. Beta Club
(Putnam County Elementary)
- Emily Backes
(Lowndes County
Council Board)

Visit a 4-H Center Near You!

Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island



For information, contact:
Angela Bliss
912/786-5531
acbliss@uga.edu

Wahsega 4-H Center



For information, contact:
Cathy Bodinof
706/864-2050
wahsega@uga.edu

Jekyll Island 4-H Center



For information, contact:
Melanie Biersmith
912/635-4117
melmel@uga.edu

Forston 4-H Center



For information, contact:
770/946-3276
fortsonsmith@bellsouth.net

Rock Eagle 4-H Center

The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
350 Rock Eagle Road
Eatonton, GA 31024
Phone: 706/484-2834
FaxL 706/484-2888
email: kellyjo@uga.edu



Visit us on the Web!
www.rockeagle4h.org



Learning for Life
Agriculture and Natural Resources · Family and Consumer Sciences · 4-H Youth

ugaextension.com

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution