



**What's New
Talmadge Auditorium
Gets a Facelift**

The auditorium at Rock Eagle has seen some major changes in the last year. Andy Smith, head of the Maintenance Department at Rock Eagle, said this is the first significant renovation the auditorium has seen since its construction in the



Talmadge Auditorium 1950's. The current renovation work began in November of 1999 and includes all new seating, lighting, carpeting, upgraded restroom facilities, wiring and more. New audio and video equipment and a power generator will be added as funds become available. Terri Camp, Area Coordinator at Rock Eagle, says this new renovation allows Rock Eagle to retain current conference groups, in addition to attracting new bookings. Terri said, "In the past year, the groups utilizing the auditorium have been awed by the transformation. It has certainly made a positive impact."

**Interim Camping
Coordinator**

Jeff Sallee announced in September that he was stepping down as Georgia 4-H Camping Coordinator. Following that announcement, Maria Burgess was hired as Interim Camping Coordinator. Maria has been a 4-H'er since the age of nine and involved with the camping program for six summers. She has served three years as a counselor at Rock Eagle, including one summer as Waterfront Coordinator. She then worked at Jekyll Island as Lead Counselor. In the summer of 2000, Maria served as an Educational Program Specialist, assisting Jeff Sallee in the daily management of the Summer Camping Program. To contact Maria, please call Rock Eagle at (706) 484-2800 or e-mail mariab@uga.edu.



Andy Smith reviews re-vamp plans for Rock Eagle

Sewer Lines Replaced

If you have visited Rock Eagle since June 2000, you have probably seen some heavy equipment in operation. Rock Eagle has been undergoing a center-wide sewage renovation project. Brand new 8-inch steel pipes are replacing the old terracotta lines at the 4-H Center. These older pipes were frequently becoming clogged with tree roots. According to Andy Smith, head of the Maintenance Department, "It was just becoming too labor intensive." Consequently it was decided that the center needed to replace all the main lines of its sewer system. In completion of the project, hopefully Rock Eagle's new sewage system will last another 50 years.



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Who's Who at the Rock

Who's Who is designed to highlight one of the many Rock Eagle employees who exemplifies the 4-H motto, "To Make The Best Better."

The employee selected for this issue of the newsletter is Barbara Manson. Barbara has worked in the Dining Hall at Rock Eagle since 1973. Barbara loves her job and loves Rock Eagle.

Barbara is responsible for a great variety of tasks in the Dining Hall, which is exactly what she enjoys about her job. At any moment she may be called to serve on the lunchline or bake bread for 500 guests; but what she enjoys most is **making desserts!**



If you have ever eaten at the Rock Eagle Dining Hall, chances are you have eaten a dessert made by Barbara. She takes special pride in the Sunday Brunches at Rock Eagle. Barbara said she "really enjoys working with the public" and "likes to make the guests at Rock Eagle happy." Barbara said she even exchanges recipes with the customers from time to time. Listening to the customers input and trying to make the desserts they like best is very satisfying to her.

Try one of Barbara's famous desserts at Rock Eagle's Sunday Brunches. Serving March through June 17, 2001 except holidays.

Landmark History



Hastings Building

Don Hastings was an original member of the Georgia 4-H Foundation Board of Directors and was instrumental in the development of Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Hastings Seed Company gave the money for the construction of the

H. G. Hastings Building at Rock Eagle. In the mid 1990's a new roof and handicap accessible restrooms were added. Don Hastings' contributions to the 4-H program were significant, as he opened many doors for Bill Sutton to request funds for the construction of Rock Eagle. Don Hastings was inducted into the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Hall of Fame in 1982. He is one of seventeen people being recognized at Rock Eagle 4-H Center with the Founders Hall project, which will be dedicated in 2001.

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For a calendar of events, Visit Rock Eagle at www.georgia4h.org & click calendar

Did You Know...

By: Joel Walker
Environmental Education

Approximately 65 percent of Georgia's landscape is covered in trees. Most of these forest acres are not owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Weyerhaeuser, or International Paper; most are owned by private landowners. Farmers and other non-industrial private landowners own approximately 72 percent of the 23.6 million acres of commercial forestland in Georgia. These private landowners have numerous options on how to manage their trees in order to achieve the outputs they desire. Let's take a look at three of these practices.

Prescribed burning is a very common practice in forests today. In the past few decades, many landowners have set prescribed burns on their property in order to reduce wildfire danger. Brush and dead wood on the ground in a forest is a natural occurrence. When levels of this material become too great, risk of wildfire increases. By periodically burning flammable material on the ground, landowners can reduce risk of a catastrophic wildfire.

Another common forestry practice is **thinning**. People who manage trees to produce marketable timber know the importance of thinning. When a young stand of trees is growing, there may be numerous trees in a relatively small area. It is not uncommon for a young stand of loblolly pines to include thousands of small trees (saplings) growing on a single acre of land. Some of these stands may be so dense it is virtually impossible to walk through the area. These trees are competing for the same

If you are interested in teaching or volunteering with the 4-H Environmental Education program, please contact us.



Recently thinned stand of pines near Rock Eagle

resources (sunlight, nutrients, water, etc.). With lots of competition for these limited resources, no individual tree is able to flourish. Rather, the trees grow at a mediocre rate. By removing many of the trees throughout the stand (thinning), the landowner is able to reduce the density of the trees and free up critical resources for those remaining. Because remaining trees are now further apart, risk of a wildfire has been reduced as well.

A third forestry practice, **cutting**, can be very noticeable on the landscape. Cutting can be done in a variety of ways. The most well-known is the **clearcut** method. This is when all the marketable trees in a given area are cut. The resulting landscape looks fundamentally different. Another method is called **selective cutting**. This occurs when certain desirable trees are taken out of the stand. This type of cutting may only remove a small percentage of the total trees in the area. It is generally not as economically efficient as clear cutting, but the change to the landscape is

less severe. **Salvage cutting** removes trees that are dead or dying as a result of insects, disease or storm damage. Insect or disease-infested older trees can be a threat to younger, healthier trees nearby. With the dry conditions of the past two years, numerous trees at Rock Eagle are struggling to survive. Should they die, many of those trees will have to be cut to insure the safety of guests.

Cutting, thinning, and controlled burning - three of many forest management practices used by landowners. Which of these practices a landowner uses depends on what goals that landowner has for the property.



Students in Environmental Ed. apply forestry techniques.

Visit Rock Eagle at www.georgia4h.org



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