



FREE - TAKE ONE!

Volume one - Issue two, April, 2010

Published by Waldo Historical Society, Inc.
Preserving Our Past

Thank you Waldo, for supporting your Waldo Historical Society's new publication. The first issue of Waldo Phoenix moved off the shelves so fast we should have gotten a speeding ticket. We're glad you like our new paper.

In addition to the regular places around Waldo to pick up the latest issue of Waldo Phoenix, you now have the option to find us online. We have a brand-new website, where you can keep up with all the activities of your Waldo Historical Society, and read the latest issue of The Waldo Phoenix. We know, it's got a long address, but once you've got it typed in, you'll have it. Here it is:

www.waldohistoricalsociety.yolasite.com

Not only will you be able to share it with the rest of your family and friends out of town or out of state, but it is in **FULL LIVING COLOR!** We hope you will like reading it online, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Important Waldo Phone Numbers

City Hall	468-1001
(After Hours Water Emergency)	258-3110
Fire Department	468-1301
(Fire Emergencies)	Call 911
Police Department	468-1515
(Police Emergencies)	955-1818
Library	468-3298
Community Center	468-2336
Post Office	468-1970
Waldo Community School	468-1451

Waldo Historical Society Meeting

April 29 - 7:30 pm

Waldo Community Center

Refreshments as always - Please Come!

Historic Waldo - Cracker Houses

by Lucy Roe Cook



A Cracker house is a wooden shelter built by the early settlers, who were lured to Florida because land was inexpensive and plentiful.

Because these pioneers arrived with few provisions, they needed to erect shelter as quickly and cheaply as possible. The land provided abundant supplies of cedar and cypress. Often rocks or bricks made of shell and lime served as pilings to keep the shelters off the ground. The valued wide porch of today was a necessity then. In the days long before air conditioning, it provided relief from the Florida sun.

Many historians will tell you that "cracker" originally meant "a braggart." Some use the term today to describe someone who was born in Florida. One story though goes back to Florida's early cowboy days.

Florida cowboys used a long (10- to 12-foot) whip made of braided leather. When a cowboy would snap his whip in the air, it made a loud "crack." The sound alone would bring stray cattle back in line quickly and earned the cowboys the nickname of "crackers."



The heavy undergrowth of Palmetto made the use of horses with short legs and likewise cattle a must, for the taller horses and cattle were more apt to break a leg.

The "Cracker Cowboys" needed short term shelter as they drove the cattle across the state and the Cracker house was born. They had double doors. The men would enter through one door to eat and exit through the other door after sleeping. The heavy slanted roof kept the rain from pooling and was caught in barrels for the men to have rain water for drinking.

Waldo has two prime examples of the Cracker house on the Waldo Historic Tour.



News from Laurel Grove Cemetery Association

A very special thank you goes to all of those who donated to the Laurel Grove Cemetery in 2009. Your donations paid for our 2009 maintenance. Thank you so very much! We ask everyone to please consider a yearly donation to help us keep the cemetery maintained. Our association group is very small and we pay to have it mowed and trimmed around the stones during the growing season. Our cost is \$200 a month, sometimes more if we have to mow the open area a second time.

The Association would like to send a very special thank you to Betty Brooker for all of the years she devoted to being the only person in charge of Laurel Grove. She kept beautiful records, took care of the bank account and expenses, and kept up with selling new plots and making arrangements with local funeral homes for services. Betty did all of this without an association to back her up. Thank you, Betty, from all of the Laurel Grove descendants.

Maintenance

The 2009 cemetery clean up will be Saturday, May 1. We need help picking up sticks, raking leaves, and trimming bushes and trees. The cold snap hit the palm trees hard and will require a LOT of trimming. Wear your gloves and bring tools. Please try to come. Last year only two people came.

There are two trash containers at the cemetery but it would help if you would bring a trash bag with you when you visit the cemetery. Please try to remove faded flowers and old containers. Please do not put plastic flowers in the wooded areas.

Unmarked Graves

Doug Lewis from the Farm Service Agency came last March with a ground radar instrument to help us locate unmarked graves in the Old Cemetery section. We hoped to mark these graves in some permanent way. However, this turned out to be quite disappointing. He found "hits" where we didn't expect to find any and nothing where we knew someone was buried.

Web Site

We hope to add more information on our Laurel Grove website soon. Judy has been busy with elderly parent issues and hasn't had time to pursue this. We renewed the site for this year. Please be patient. Visit WWW.LaurelGrove.org

Remember

American flags were placed on the graves of our veterans on Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, and confederate flags on Confederate Memorial Day. We have 40 veterans at Laurel Grove, including 11 Confederate soldiers and 2 Union soldiers. Chuck Slifer helped Fred place these flags at the grave sites.

Confederate Memorial Day

The Matthew Starke Perry chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans had their memorial day ceremony at Laurel Grove last April. Some members of the group were dressed in period costume. The eleven Confederate soldiers buried in our cemetery were remembered and the highest-ranking officer, Col. Steven Bryan, was honored with a wreath. Mayor Louis Davis spoke to the group. The following soldiers were honored: Col. Steven Bryan, Horace N. Bryan (wounded and captured at Gettysburg), Alexander C. Beckham (musician), D. L. Branning (minister at local Methodist-Episcopal Church and chaplain throughout the war), J. C. Dean, William Gadsden Green (great grandfather of Mayor Louis Davis), Dillyard Hicks (manufacturer of carriages & wagons—supplied Waldo's Kennard Livery Stables), Samuel J. Kennard (sold the land to our original trustees for the Laurel Grove Cemetery), P. W. W. Sparkman, Thomas B. Tillis, and Joel T. Weeks.

Plot Donations

If anyone has plots in Laurel Grove you do not intend to use, please consider donating those plots back to the cemetery. Our available spaces are limited and we would like to have them for future use. Contact us if you have any questions about this or available plots.

Contacting Laurel Grove

If you know of someone who should be receiving this yearly newsletter and is not, please let us know. We would like to expand our contact list. You can write us or send donations to:

Laurel Grove Cemetery Assn.
P. O. Box 130
Waldo, Florida 32694.
352-468-1726

Commodities

Waldo Community Center
Thursday, April 22, 2010
1 pm - 2 pm



Chief Szabo

POLICE ADVICE

Most people have experienced the "oh no" feeling after seeing a police car in the rear view mirror. Most people hit their brakes, even if they were not speeding.

Personal physical reactions and experiences can influence perceptions of traffic enforcement efforts, and often prevent people from realizing its true benefits.

Traffic enforcement is the most recognizable and universal police function. Marked police cars are easy to see and most Americans have been stopped for a traffic violation.

Because of the punitive consequences attached to traffic enforcement, many do not have an appreciation for the positive benefits. What are the goals and motivations of traffic enforcement?

Because traffic enforcement is so visible, the public perceives that that is all police do.

Some agencies have a few officers dedicated to traffic enforcement. However, in most agencies including Waldo Police Department traffic enforcement is one of many responsibilities the officers perform.

Speeding is a serious offense when you examine the facts:

Contributing Factors to Fatal Crashes

Operating vehicle in erratic, reckless, careless, or negligent manner

BUT . . . the number one cause of Fatal Crashes is Speed. Speeding is one of the most common offenses committed by the aggressive driver.

By controlling speeding we are saving lives. The officers also remove impaired drivers from the road.

Seat Belt Law...Seat belts are a big deal because they save lives. The average American is more likely to be involved in a traffic crash than be a victim of crime.

1995 Crash Clock - One fatality every 13 minutes, one injury every 9 seconds, one crash every 5 seconds, one property damage every 7 seconds.

Some people think that if they are injured in a crash it only affects them. This is a myth. Everyone pays for traffic crashes and the economic costs are significantly more than crime. In 1995, crashes cost Americans \$150 billion. In 1993, personal and property crimes cost Americans \$19million.

Traffic enforcement regularly identifies criminals

and results in their apprehension. Drugs, weapons, contraband, fugitives and illegal aliens are frequently found in vehicles doing "routine" traffic stops.

Remember, when you see a car pulled over the law enforcement officer may be doing more than writing a traffic citation. The officer may be apprehending a felon, child molester or a murderer, or removing weapons and drugs from your community. Also, remember to move over or slow down when passing the stopped vehicles.

Traffic enforcement can and does contribute to the quality of life in our Community. Drive Safe And thank you for your support.

Chief Szabo

Marie's
Country Kitchen
by Marie Ankney
Sugar Free
Peanut Butter Cookies



- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup Splenda
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

- Mix peanut butter and Splenda
- Add egg and vanilla
- Roll into small balls.
- Put on ungreased cookie sheet
- Press criss cross with fork
- Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes.

ENJOY!

First Baptist Church, Waldo
Hwy 24

352-468-1721

Sunday Schedule

9:15 - 9:45

Refreshments

9:45

Bible Study (all ages)

11:00 am & 6 pm

Worship

11:00 am & 6 pm

Children's Worship

6 pm

Youth Praise and Worship

Wednesday Schedule

5:45 - 6:15 pm

Dinner

6:30 pm

Children's, Youth, Adult Programs

The Philadelphia Baptist church sponsored a Fund Raiser with a \$50 WalMart gift card for the prize. The drawing was held on Saturday, March 20 at 2:30 pm at the Philadelphia Baptist Church. The lucky ticket was drawn by Mrs. Marie Ankney and the Lucky Winner is:
DIAMOND JACKSON

April Birthdays

- 1 Lumanda Davis
- 5 Dusty Harrison
- 5 Lindy Crews
- 10 Christine Hill
- 11 Elmore Taylor
- 12 Clara Minnix
- 16 Lillie M. Anderson
- 16 Melanie Aultman
- 17 Ardell Davidson
- 22 Jonna Jackson
- 23 Lawrence Grant
- 26 Mary Aiken
- 26 Bridgette Hill
- 26 Pastor Jim DuBois

APRIL EVENTS OF INTEREST
Gathered by Ginger Andrews
BLUEGRASS IN THE PARK

Silver River State Park, April 3, 2010 4:30 pm - ?? Enjoy some great fiddling, strumming and singing with Sweetwater Bluegrass, Up the Creek and Scott & Amanda Anderson. This is an annual fundraiser for Friends of Silver River. Refreshments will be available for sale. \$10 adult; children under 16 free.

Contact: deborah.wilson@dep.state.fl.us. Directions: Silver River State Park is located east of Ocala, 1 mile south of S.R. 40 on S.R. 35. From Interstate 75, take exit 352 onto SR 40 east, about 9 miles to SR 35. From Interstate 95 take exit 268 to Route 40 west, about 60 miles to SR 35.

INTERLACHEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John Sikorski - Friday April 9th from 2-4PM. Admission price is \$5, and \$10 if you want something appraised. For each additional item to be appraised, there is a \$3 charge. That's a deal. Call Jean for reservations at 386-684-0103. 1892 Interlachen Hall, Corner of Commonwealth & Atlantic Avenues.

"SPRINGS AND BLOOMS" GARDEN FESTIVAL
 Fanning Springs State Park Date: Saturday, April 10,

2010. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fanning Springs State Park will Host a festival emphasizing environmentally friendly techniques for watering, fertilizing and pest control practices for the home gardener on April 10, 2010. The festival will host displays of irrigation, plant fertilization and pest management presented by University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Nature Coast Master Gardeners Association. There will be demonstrations on xeriscaping and guided walks showcasing native landscaping in the park, as well as native and ornamental plant sales, food, and children's games. There will be drawings for free plant and prizes all day. For more information about the event, visit Fanning Springs Garden Festival. This is a *free entry* event. For more information, call 352-463-3420.

OLD TIME DANCE

O'Leno State Park Sunday, April 18, 2010. From 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Family fun for all ages! Dance contra, circles and squares to live music hosted by the Flying Turtles String Band. These are the dances that were the rage in the mid 1800's when the town of Leno thrived! First time dancers are welcome, a caller will walk you through each of the dances. The dance will be held in the 1930's Recreation Hall located on the banks of the Santa Fe River in O'Leno State Park. Regular park admission fees plus \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 per student and children under 18 years of age. For more information, call 386-454-1853.

Family-Fun at the Farm and Forest Festival at Morningside Nature Center Saturday, April 24, 2010 Admission to the festival is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 to 12. Admission is free for children under 3.

The Farm and Forest Festival is the largest festival at Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm. The Festival, which takes place on April 24th, highlights North Central Florida rural life in 1870. Visitors can experience historic-breed farm animals, hear period music, and observe traditional crafts and trades such as spinning, weaving, and woodstove cooking. Horse-drawn wagon rides and crafts add to the merriment of this family-friendly event!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Don't forget the Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Sponsored by the W3Cs and the City of Waldo. Saturday, April 4 at the Waldo Community Center from 10 am till noon.



Fish Tales

by Buddy Thompson

Back in the 1960's and 70's, the State built artificial fishing reefs in the waters off Jacksonville using junk cars. One day Mr. Smith and his diver friend went fishing off one of these reefs. Mr. Smith got a bite right away and hooked it. He could feel something on the fishing line but could not pull it up.

Mr. Smith asked his diver friend to put on his diving gear, go down and check what he was hooked on. The friend surfaced and told Mr. Smith, "You won't believe this----- you have hooked about a 40 pound grouper and he's inside a Volkswagen!"

Mr. Smith said, "Take your spear gun down, shoot him and bring the fish up." Mr. Smith waited and waited watching the bubbles from the diver. About twenty minutes later the diver surfaced and said You won't believe this! Every time I point the spear gun at the grouper he rolls the window up.

Revved Up Humor

The photographer prided himself on the number of repeat customers he had. One woman returned to his studio after six years wanting a new portrait. When the new proofs were in, she complained about them. "When you photographed me before, I was more stunning."

"I am sorry," replied the photographer, "but I was six years younger then."

~~~~~  
A mother of six children walked into her living room one day to find her children huddled together in a circle. As she got closer to the group, she noticed six small animals in the circle. She could hardly believe her eyes. They were six baby skunks!

She screamed, "Children, run, run!"

The shout scared the children and each one grabbed a skunk and ran. The panic caused the skunks to "spray" and each child was doused with the horrible smell.

### City of Waldo News

Kim Worley

352-468-1001

Hours: Monday – Friday 8AM – 5PM

12:00n-1:00pm - Closed for lunch

#### CENSUS...WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO WALDO??

**C** Tax dollars are allocated to City's usually based on a population formula. The more people there are the more dollars there are for the City, Schools and non profits that help in our area. During the last census only 48% of Waldo Residents were counted. The impact for low numbers affects dollars allocated to the City for roads, Senior Programs, Recreation, food programs, grants etc. You need to count all people living at your Residence.



If you need help filling out the form we will be glad to help you at City Hall. There is also a toll free help line, 1-866-872-6868. They are available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. The staff speaks, English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can call the TDD number 1-866-783-2010.

**YOUR ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL!!!!** By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years or both.

Completing the 2010 Census form will shape the future for you, your community and the country.

#### April 21 for May Issue



## FLAGG COAL CO. # 75

### Ginger Andrews

Quite by accident, I have discovered that I'm a train enthusiast. I believe that most of us have some kind of positive feelings for trains. Is it because of a Johnny Cash song that you remember? Can you remember



counting the cars while stopped at a crossing when you were a kid? Do you hear that familiar whistle in the distance and get a feeling that's hard to explain? I'll bet you've put a penny on the tracks and treasured it for a while. Trains have woven themselves into our national fabric; everyone has a train story.

In February, for my mother's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, our family visited the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish FL. A steam engine, Flagg Coal Co. #75, was visiting from Indiana. We were open to an adventure, and that's what we got. The museum has 8 miles of rural track, used to highlight visiting and permanent exhibits including a variety of engines and cars.

Flagg Coal Co. #75 is a beautifully restored steam engine built in 1930. Originally from Pennsylvania, she languished, rusting and unwanted in New York for 40 years, until Byron (Barney) and John Gramling purchased her in

1991. Ten years later, she was restored to her original luster and ready to be shown off around the country.

Our trip began on a miserably cold and rainy day. With our fists deep in our pockets and heads lowered, we headed from our cars to the waiting train. As the engine hissed and huffed, we boarded the Pullman car and chose our seats. Pleasantries were exchanged between passengers. Only "train people" come out in weather like this, we agreed. And thus, I became a train person.

As the sound of the engine's whistle filled the air, we felt a gentle forward motion, and we were on our way. A uniformed conductor took our tickets (or course!) and we settled in and enjoyed the uninterrupted view of natural Florida landscape. As we munched sandwiches, I saw two sooty men in overalls approaching down the aisle. They were the owner/operator, Barney, and the fireman, Steve. I would come to find out later that Steve Wonderly is the President of the Florida Railroad Museum. They were very friendly, and ably answered all of our questions. This was getting more interesting all the time!

Barney told us about the ten long years it took to restore the engine, and how he and his dad, John, load that enormous thing onto a tractor-trailer several times a year and haul it around the country for people like us to enjoy. That's truly a labor of love. About this time, the rain was letting up, and they stopped the train to let us disembark and take photos. This was an enthralling experience. As we watched, the engine gathered steam and then sent steam and smoke flying out in all directions.

As the entire engine was engulfed in fog, it pulled forward to produce a beautiful sight. The visual experience was outstanding, but I must try to describe the sounds. This kind of sound doesn't just involve one's ears, but is a total-body experience. It seems to start in your feet, as the ground heralds the train's approach. Then, as the engine is right upon you, the impossibly loud whistle and the roaring of that powerful machine create a percussive effect that you feel all over. You smell smoke in the air, and your eyes are clouded by swirling steam. It seems that a steam engine is much greater than the sum of its parts.

Before we knew it, the trip was over, but not before we were allowed to stand on the engine platform and peer into the firebox. Yellow and orange flames raged inside the chamber and made a sighing sound as the door was opened and shut. I must say, a steam engine is pure DRAMA!



**Wash Your Hands  
Judith Easterwood**

**H**ave you ever noticed someone cough and not cover their mouth. Most colds, flu and viruses could be avoided by washing your hands.

Also, cleaning surfaces with a product that can kill germs and viruses will help keep you from getting those nasty old bugs. Children and older persons are susceptible to the new strains of flu viruses. These few things will keep you healthy.

According to the CDC ( Communicable Disease Center) "Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. It is best to wash your hands with soap and clean running water for 20 seconds. However, if soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product to clean your hands. Alcohol-based hand rubs significantly reduce the number of germs on skin and are fast acting."

**When washing hands with soap and water:**

- Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all surfaces.

Continue rubbing hands for 20 seconds. Need a timer? Imagine singing "Happy Birthday" twice through to a friend!

- Rinse hands well under running water
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer. If possible, use your paper towel to turn off the faucet

**When should you wash your hands?**

- Before preparing or eating food
- After going to the bathroom
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has gone to the bathroom
- Before and after tending to someone who is sick
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After handling an animal or animal waste
- After handling garbage
- Before and after treating a cut or wound

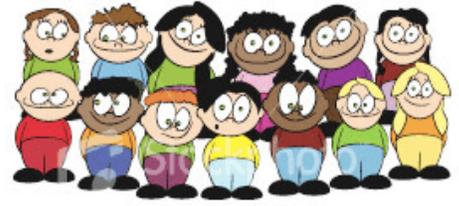
Remember: If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based gel to clean hands.

**When using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer:**

- Apply product to the palm of one hand
- Rub hands together
- Rub the product over all surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry.

**Waldo's Kids  
Thelma Bay**

**H**ow are you enjoying this endless winter? Even the flowers are laying



low and the weeds are re-thinking their appearance. Some of the "old-timers" (not me, of course) are saying this is the kind of weather that will skip Spring and jump right into Summer before we know it!

Our Waldo Community School will be adopting uniforms for the next school year. They will be called Waldo Wear and will consist of a navy blue or white polo shirt and navy or khaki pants, shorts or skirts. Walmart in Starke will have a complete selection this summer. Their prices are reasonable and I think the parents will be glad of the switch. Mr. Powell has a selection of the clothes in his office if you want to stop by and have a look.

During these lingering hard economic times, don't forget to use our local branch library. I've been doing a lot of reading lately and they have a great selection. If they don't have a certain book you want, they'll order it.

Now, on the lighter side, one of our dedicated readers asked me for an update on that free puppy we got last October from the Randy Hall family. She has gone from Free to Gold Standard! The collateral damage she has inflicted on our family will bring you to your knees. She can grab a sock, towel, or even a shoe and chew it apart before you can say No! No! All this on top of food, treats, heartworm meds, a new collar and toys. Fortunately, we love her and we can always buy new socks.

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