



Friends of McLeod

Autumn, 2009

Concerns About Recent Events

Along with many others, we were surprised by Historic Charleston Foundation's recent announcement of their intent to sell McLeod Plantation to the College of Charleston Foundation for \$4 million. Since our organization was formed to protect this historic Sea Island plantation from development, our chair and two board members met with the college's president, George Benson, to explain our mission and learn as much as possible about the college's plans.

We have serious concerns about the pending sale:

- *The proposed purchase contract allows the subdivision of McLeod Plantation.*
- *The preliminary site plan shows "build zones" in the wooded area behind the slave cabins, in part of the field, and in two areas on Wappoo Creek, including one that adjoins the slave cemetery.*
- *The contract allows the College of Charleston Foundation to sell McLeod to another buyer.*

The proposed sale has many other points of concern for us, including the preservation of the McLeod buildings, the protection of its grave sites and archaeological sites, the preservation of its rural character, and public access. Since the College of Charleston has limited area to expand its downtown campus, **we are especially concerned about the potential for expansion and building construction at McLeod.** At our request, our attorney has conveyed our concerns to the legal counsel for the college. We invite you to read the proposed purchase contract for yourself on the college's website.

The Friends of McLeod have fought since 2004 to save McLeod Plantation from development and preserve it for South Carolina and the nation. We believe that McLeod is, in the words of former Historic Charleston Foundation president Thomas A. Palmer, "one of the most unique and historic properties in America."

We ask all of our more than 500 members across the lowcountry, state and nation to continue the fight to preserve this historic plantation.

*The Board of Directors
Friends of McLeod*

ANNOUNCING

OUR SIXTH ANNUAL BENEFIT OYSTER ROAST!

**Sunday, November 29
2 ~ 6 p.m.
Bowens Island**

**Same price as last year!
\$20 in advance, \$25 at door**

Fresh local oysters, hot dogs and fixings, Sticky Fingers barbeque, delicious desserts! Start your holiday shopping by bidding on unique gifts at our Silent Auction!

To order tickets, send a check in the enclosed envelope, go to friendsofmcleod.org to charge tickets, or call 795-7519.

Friends of McLeod Mission Statement

Friends of McLeod is dedicated to preserving and protecting all aspects of McLeod Plantation, including its house, slave cabins, outbuildings, cemetery, oak allees, woods and character-defining fields. Friends of McLeod will inform and educate the public on the plantation's historical importance, military history, and particularly its importance in African-American history, from slavery to the Civil War to freedom. Friends of McLeod will inform and educate on the plantation's agricultural history as a Sea Island plantation, and will work to protect its remaining rural vistas. The organization is also dedicated to protecting the plantation as one of South Carolina's most valuable archaeological sites.

Friends of McLeod is a recognized, 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible, under Internal Revenue Service rules.

Renew Your Membership ~ \$10 a Year
Support Friends of McLeod Today!

COMING UP ---

November 29 - Friends of McLeod Oyster Roast, Bowens Island, 2-6. Make reservations at friendsofmcleod.org or call 795-7519.

December 5 - Christmas 1862, Ft. Lamar Heritage Preserve, James Island, 10-5. Living history, guided tours, bagpipers and more. SC Battleground Preservation Trust. Free.

December 5 - 54th Massachusetts Banquet and Silent Auction. Guest speaker: Michael Allen from the National Park Service. Call 408-7727 for more information.



Friends of McLeod, Inc.
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