



A word from our chairman

Hopeful news for McLeod

I am very pleased to report to you that the Historic Charleston Foundation Board of Trustees voted on Oct. 21 to begin negotiations to sell the historic McLeod Plantation to the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. PRC ownership of McLeod is a goal we have worked toward for a long time. I am convinced this is a testament to the patience and perseverance of the Friends of McLeod, who have held fast to their mission of protecting McLeod Plantation in its entirety. The sale is expected to take place in a matter of weeks, if all goes well.

The Park and Recreation Commission has had the goal of acquiring McLeod for a long time, and we salute the commissioners for *their* patience and perseverance. We have always believed that McLeod should be preserved as a historic site with public access, and PRC will be following its mission – which includes historic preservation – in restoring the plantation and opening it to the public.

Meanwhile, we will continue our mission of preserving McLeod and its history, and educating the public about its importance. I thank each of you for being part of this seven-year effort to save McLeod, and hope that you will help us continue our work. I also thank the individuals and organizations who joined with us in our efforts, and the public officials who supported PRC's purchase of McLeod. I hope everyone will attend our oyster roast at Bowen's Island as we celebrate many years of hard work. Thanks to your loyal support we are making a difference for McLeod, and for the heritage of South Carolina and America.

–Dottie George, Chairman
Friends of McLeod Board of Directors

Keep up the good work!

Please renew your membership and help preserve McLeod Plantation and its history! Membership is only \$10 and can be paid with a check (payable to Friends of McLeod) or with PayPal at www.friendsofmcleod.org.

Why I support PRC's ownership of McLeod Plantation

By John Meffert

Last year the Post and Courier published an article on the proposed purchase of McLeod by the College of Charleston Foundation for \$4 million dollars. The headline asked, "Is McLeod Worth Its Price?" I responded to this question with a commentary piece that the Post and Courier published afterward. In my response I voiced my concerns about the proposed purchase, based on what Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. eloquently expressed in his 2000 inaugural address. Mayor Riley suggested that, given the rapid and constant changes in our Lowcountry, any new proposal should be evaluated by asking two questions: "... Is it the best it can be? Second, will what is being proposed be useful and celebrated 50 or 100 years from today?"

In reading the recent front page story in the Post and Courier, announcing the new purchase agreement for the McLeod Plantation, I can honestly say that I believe those two questions have now been answered with a resounding "yes." The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission has the financial means to purchase and maintain the entire property. They also have the mandate to accomplish the preservation of McLeod's historic structures for the future. Finally, they have the foresight to ensure the protection of the beautiful fields that were Mr. Willie McLeod's particular legacy to all of us, so that they will remain an integral part of the historic property. I think PRC will be the best steward of McLeod, the best that can be.

I also believe that as the purchase ensures the long-term future integrity of the property, it also ensures that there will be a public dialogue on how we will use it in the public realm. The commission has the interest to bring all the parties together to share a vision for the future uses of McLeod Plantation. I believe PRC's ownership will allow all of us an opportunity to work together in building a plan for the public use of the property. I think that the plan we develop will be celebrated 50 or 100 years from today.

–continued on page 2

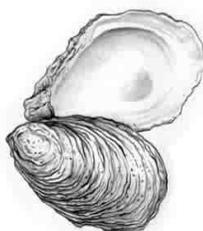
Friends of McLeod, Inc.
P.O. Box 13021
Charleston, SC 29422
www.friendsofmcleod.org

Return service requested



Friends of McLeod
7th Annual Benefit Oyster Roast and Silent Auction
Sunday, Nov. 28th 2-6 p.m.
Bowen's Island Restaurant

Please join us for an afternoon on the Folly River, featuring local oysters, barbecue, hot dogs and chili, decadent desserts, soft drinks and beer! Enjoy live music, bid on unique silent auction items, and watch the sunset from the dock!



Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
Make checks payable to Friends of McLeod and mail to P.O. Box 13021, Charleston, SC 29422, or purchase tickets online with PayPal at www.friendsofmcleod.org. Contact 795-3544 for reservations.

Why I support PRC's ownership of McLeod, *continued from page 1*

The Historic Charleston Foundation board voted unanimously to support the Park and Recreation Commission's proposal, and for that I am very grateful. The Foundation has done a good thing, and I sincerely believe they did the right thing.

Time will show that McLeod was not only worth its price, but that the price was a bargain. The plantation is priceless as part of the heritage we share together in this beautiful Lowcountry.

My own test of whether this is the right thing? The right thing is that soon I can rest assured that the full moon on a fall evening will rise over the McLeod fields as it has for so many years before, and that those who follow us will enjoy the same sight, with deepening delight, for years to come.

—John Meffert, a board member of the Friends of McLeod, is former director of the Southeast Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Society of Charleston.

In Memoriam

Ernest Geddings
Cotton Harness, legal advisor to
the Friends of McLeod
Dr. Marvin Murdaugh
Anne Clary Nigels
Mary Wilder Parks
Mike Taylor
Norris White

Trees have been planted in Charleston County parks in remembrance of these friends, and a donation has been made to the S.C. Battleground Preservation Trust in honor of Mike Taylor, its former executive director.