

Friends of McLeod, Inc.

Volume I, Issue 3, February/March, 2006

Chairman's Column

We're excited about this issue which starts to focus on the importance of McLeod Plantation, our thoughts about how it impacts our lives, what it means to us individually and collectively, and the effect of proposed changes. One of our members has put into words his own thoughts for this issue. Read them and let us know yours.

Thank you again to SC Rep. Wallace Scarborough who was the speaker at our last Public Meeting. We know you'll enjoy what Dr. Marvin Dulaney has to say about the history and meaning of McLeod Plantation and we look forward to seeing you on February 27 when he speaks.

Our membership has grown to over 280 friends. Join us to help preserve this special place of James Island's history.

Fred Wichmann, Chairman,
Friends of McLeod, Inc. Board of Directors

So Why Do I Belong to Friends of McLeod, Inc.?

(Written by member, John Meffert, former Executive Director of the Preservation Society and former Director of the Southern Region's National Trust for Historic Preservation.)

As members of any group we are always confronted with the question "why do I belong?" I have found that annually when I get the dues notice, I have to reflect on that question before I send the required amount, and for me, it is a useful moment as I think on what it is I believe, why it is important, or worthwhile, or necessary for me to participate in the organization. So it was when, at the end of the year, I sent in my annual year-end contribution to McLeod and I had to consider my commitment to the Friends of McLeod.

So why *do* I belong?

I belong because I think that McLeod, having survived for 3 centuries and more as an agricultural enclave, should remain such as a reminder of where we have come from, where we are now, and as a reference point for where we are going in the future.

I belong because I find that the industrial nature of the current plans as proposed for the property are inappropriate for a historic plantation landscape listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. I belong because I believe in a different view of the highest and best use, and that to hold the land inviolate is the highest and best use for the property.

I belong because I think that McLeod should be a gateway for James Island into the future. I belong as I believe that future generations of all people could walk under the oaks of the drive, or along the *allee* to the river, or look out across the field and experience for themselves that here the mystery and the beauty of James Island lives on.

I belong because I have seen the moon rise over the mist-covered field, and I can imagine that an ancient native of the island, or a revolutionary war volunteer, or a slave working the land, or a Confederate or Union soldier, or a newly freed citizen, or Mr. Willie McLeod has seen a similar evening and that we are therefore connected by the experience over all the long centuries.

After thinking these thoughts, I sent in my check. I felt good about doing so. I did not think about any reward for doing this. And yet, I was rewarded. Last night, as I returned to the island and crossed the Wappoo Cut, I looked off toward the McLeod property and seeing the full orange moon rise over the trees of our lowcountry, I knew that I was home on James Island, again.

Next Friends of McLeod Meeting



The Friends of McLeod welcome **Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney**, Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston, as our Guest Speaker on Monday, February 27 at the Payne RMUE Church at 1560 Camp Road.

The Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Please join us to hear Dr. Dulaney speak on the history of McLeod Plantation and stay for a reception in his honor following the program.

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

Friends of McLeod, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

McLeod Plantation Nominated for America's 11 Most Endangered Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

Friends of McLeod, Inc. has nominated the McLeod Plantation for this year's list of most endangered historic places. You can see the summary, other information, and the pictures submitted on our website at www.friendsofmcleod.org.

Coming Attractions...

February

February 27 - Join Your Friends at Our Next Meeting on Monday, February 27 at 7 p.m., Payne RMUE Church at 1560 Camp Road, James Island to hear Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney speak. Stay for the reception in his honor.

March

March 1 - Presentation of Friends of McLeod slide show to a group at Bethel United Methodist Church. The presentation is available to groups of 10 or more. Call Carol at 795-7519.

March 25 & 26 - Stop by our table at the Battle of Charleston at Legare Farms on John's Island.

For information on becoming an official member of Friends of McLeod, Inc., or if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit our website at www.friendsofmcleod.org or call Tom Delaney at (843) 490-0067. *Thank you!*

Friends of McLeod Inc.'s Mission Statement:

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



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