



AUGUSTA CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The Augusta Canal Authority has entered into a contract with Avondale Mills, Inc. to purchase the Sibley Mill, Authority Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse and Authority Chairman Robert Woodhurst announced at a press conference in late February. The purchase price is \$800,000.

The property includes the landmark 19th Century textile mill, hydroelectric plant, outbuildings and approximately 20 acres of land stretching from the banks of the Augusta Canal to the Savannah River.

Avondale ceased textile manufacturing at Sibley in 2006 but continues to operate the mill's hydroelectric power plant. The Authority will take over the hydro operation, stabilize the buildings, and perform required environmental remediation.

The Authority acquired Sibley in order to safeguard and protect the property, located within the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, explained Sherrouse. The Authority doesn't plan to be the long-term owner of the mill.



AUGUSTA CANAL AUTHORITY TO BUY SIBLEY MILL

"We want to protect this important historic resource," said Sherrouse. "When the economy improves, we will consider offers from interested developers. In the mean time, we want to protect the structure from 'demolition by neglect,'" he said, referring to the fate of some historic properties that have been lost through deterioration or collapse.

The acquisition will enable the Authority to complete many of the pre-development activities that will ultimately make the property more marketable to a re-developer, Sherrouse said. He stressed that the canal was originally built in 1845 to promote economic development and this purchase is consistent with that goal. It will be the first step in returning the property to active use as a viable component of the local economy.

The Authority has a 120-day inspection period prior to final closing in order to identify any unknown structural and environmental problems. Barring unforeseen inspection findings, closing is expected on August 31, 2010.

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EDUCATION CORNER

By Debbie Stankus,
Education and
Programs
Coordinator



Think Spring!
Spring is in the air which means it's time for the Canal tour guides to gear up for school groups and public tours. When the busy fall field trip season wound down, our education team collectively said, "Whew!" as mornings in the Interpretive Center quieted for winter. Now, it's "all guides on deck" in anticipation of the hustle and bustle of a spring season with new programs, activities and surprises.

Take a Walk in the Park. We're introducing a fun series of interpretive walks called A Walk in the Park. The series will premiere in the spring and return again in autumn with a Saturday and Sunday walk one weekend each month. These programs will be led by local experts and/or park staff. There's a little something to interest everyone. See the article on page 5 for the details.

Celebrate Earth Day's 40th. April 2010 marks the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day! To celebrate we're having an informational display and special kids' activities table set up in the Interpretive Center. Children may decorate stickers, do coloring sheets, and enjoy a scavenger hunt in addition to learning about Earth Day. Also, from April 5 - 9 Augusta Canal will host 'Camp Green Generation.' For groups of 20 or more this three-hour spring break program features the Eco-Boat Tour, recycled arts & crafts, games and other exciting green-focused activities for kids. Environmental education has never been so much fun!

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SIBLEY MILL PURCHASE

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Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse (L) & Authority Chairman Robert Woodhurst (R) announce Sibley Mill purchase at a February press conference.

Sherrouse stated that the Authority would be conducting their own environmental inspection of the property to complement previous assessments by Avondale. "Our goal is to have the site approved under the Brownfield Program pursuant to Georgia's Hazardous Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act," he said.

The Authority will file for the transfer of Sibley's hydropower license and operation from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission after closing and continue producing electricity from the operation of the hydroelectric plant.

The property behind Sibley reaching to the Savannah River is part of the purchase. Acquisition allows the Authority to complete a long-delayed recreational trail project along the Savannah River levee that had been postponed due to right-of-way issues. Work to install pedestrian bridges across the tailraces (the outflows to the Savannah River) from Sibley and King Mills will begin after final closing.

The Sibley is the second historic mill purchased by the Augusta Canal Authority to promote preservation along the canal. In 2001 it purchased the Sibley's



Canal Authority members tour Sibley hydroelectric plant.

neighbor, King Mill, for approximately \$250,000 after that mill was abruptly shuttered by its owners. The authority then leased the building to a new operator, Ohio-based Standard Textile. Standard continues to operate King to make textiles for the health care industry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Powderworks Chimney Restoration Completed

Restoration of the Confederate Powderworks chimney was completed in early March, following some weather-related delays. The chimney, a prominent landmark on the canal's first level, is the only remaining above-ground structure built by the Confederate States of America and was dedicated as a war memorial in 1872.



Savannah Rapids Headgate Park Improvements Continue

Upgrades to parking, picnic, and other recreational amenities at the Savannah Rapids Headgate park area are slated for completion in late May.

Canal Hosts Community Educators Open House



Area educators picked up ideas for field trips throughout the CSRA at an open house presented by the Community Educators Cooperative and hosted at the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center. Representatives from non-school based learning organizations such as libraries, parks, museums, and historic sites explained their resources to interested teachers.



Towpath Reopens

The towpath above the water pumping station reopened for seven-day-a-week access in mid-March following work to reinforce the canal

banks and remove selected vegetation. This marks the final phase of a major project by the Augusta Utilities Department to upgrade the city's raw water pumping facilities. The Augusta Canal has been part of the city's water supply and flood control systems since its construction in the 1840s.

EDUCATION CORNER

Continued from page 2

Take in the "Peep Show!" Just days after we marveled at a rare Augusta snowstorm, I heard Spring Peepers, *Pseudacris crucifer*, in the borrow pits area as I explored the canal mountain bike trail.



These musical amphibians love to hang out in shrubs or small trees that are surrounded by standing water. Best chance to see (or at least hear) these little frogs in our area is when they are breeding in winter and early spring. Follow the link below to hear a recording of their

calls, or get out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area!

<http://www.uga.edu/srelherp/anurans/psecru.htm>

Spring will herald the arrival of the much larger froggy cousins to the peepers, our own bullfrogs! Two specimens will be taking up residence at the Canal Interpretive Center soon. They are sure to jump into the spotlight as they add an exciting new aspect to our natural science programs. Scheduled to arrive in April, their debut will be highlighted by a "Name the Bullfrogs Contest" for school groups.

If you have any questions or would like to see our education program in action please contact me, at 706-823-0440, ext. 2.

CANAL CAPTAIN'S PHOTO EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Petersburg Boat Captain Reggie Fraser's photograph of the Augusta Canal earned Honorable Mention in the Tenth Annual National Historic Landmarks photo contest. The image was selected from more than 200 submissions depicting national landmarks and heritage areas. The photo is featured as the October picture in the Event Planner calendar published by the National Park Service.

The photograph shows the upper end of the historic canal in the late-day autumn sunlight including headgate, lock structures and towpath.

Captain Fraser is a part-time captain on the Augusta Canal's Petersburg tour boats. He captured the image with a Nikon d200 digital SLR camera with a 28-200 mm lens. "I almost always take my camera when we go out on the boat," said Captain Fraser.

This year the Augusta Canal is the only National Heritage Area in the winners group. In first place, the Belle of Louisville paddlewheel riverboat in Kentucky;



second place, the Saint Louis Gateway Arch; third place, Taos Pueblo in New Mexico. To view all 12 winners and for more information on the 2009 contest visit the news section of www.nps.gov/history/nhl. Copies of the full-color event planner calendar may be purchased through the US Government Printing Office online at bookstore.gpo.gov. Prints of Captain Fraser's photo are on sale at the Canal gift shop.

Canal Moonlight Music Cruises Start 5th Season

The popular Augusta Canal Moonlight Music Cruises return in April for the fifth year. These intimate live performances aboard the Canal's Petersburg boats feature an array of musical styles. The spring season offers cruises on Fridays through June. The fall season resumes in September and October.



Passengers are welcome to bring aboard refreshments of their choice. Cruises last approximately an hour and half and depart from the docks at Enterprise Mill. Tickets are \$24 per seat. Seating capacity is limited; reservations are required and can be made by phone with a credit card at 706-823-0440 ext. 4 or online at augustacanal.com.

MOONLIGHT MUSIC CRUISE SPRING PERFORMANCES

April 2	6:30	The Wynns	Americana/ bluegrass
April 9	6:30	Galen Kipar	Blue Fusion Soul Folk
April 16	6:30	Roger Enevoldsen	Oldies vocals and sing-alongs
April 23	6:30	Fred Williams	Smooth Jazz
April 30	6:30	Keith Gregory	Easy listening pop/ classic rock
May 7	7:00	Tara Scheyer	Southern storytelling singer/songwriter
May 21	7:00	Eryn Eubanks & the Family Fold	Gospel/bluegrass
May 28	7:00	Paul Roberts Fresh Music All-Star Band	Jazz, Broadway and Standards
June 4	7:00	Wayne Capps	Guitar/mandolin/vocals, oldies & originals
June 11	7:00	Jim McGaw	Dulcimer, traditional and contemporary
June 18	7:00	Impulse Ride	Duo acoustic pop/rock
June 25	7:00	Jeff Liberty	Blues/Jazz/Americana

Augusta Canal Keepers NEWS

The Augusta Canal Keepers Society welcomed these new and renewing members in January and February 2010. Members enjoy discounted admissions and other benefits as appreciation for their support of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Inc. Learn more at www.augusatacanal.com. A membership application can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

FIRST LEVEL

William, Jr. & Marian Clark
D. Hugh Connolly
Loran & Nancy Flanagan
Lyle & Shirley Glascock
Dean Gustafson
Peter & Patricia Hughes
Bonnie Ideal
Elaine Montano
Jackie Walters

SECOND LEVEL

Braye & Toy Boardman
Tom Hamilton
Trent & Kathy Mercer
William W. Pidcoe, Jr.

THIRD LEVEL

Ann Boardman

LOCKMASTER LEVEL

Martin Marietta, Inc.

Please Consider the Cashin Fund for Young Learners

As school field trip season arrives, teachers often ask if there is financial assistance available. Some students' families cannot afford the extra few dollars to cover a field trip fee. Here's a typical request.:



*"I am trying to come up with a trip to the Augusta Canal for two classes of kids, about 45 students in all. I teach at a low income school and am hoping to make this trip as affordable as possible. Not many students are able to come up with any money at all. Please let me know what you can come up with to help us!!!
Thanks!"*

Third Grade Teacher, Richmond County

The Edward Cashin Young Learners Fund was established to help address this need. Your contribution can help one student or several classes enjoy the educational field trip experiences of the Augusta Canal; \$10 funds one student, \$200 a full class. Please consider a donation in any amount. A form is on the back page of this newsletter, or you can mail your check directly to the Augusta Canal office with "Cashin Fund" in the memo line.

INTRODUCING A Walk in the Park

Join local experts for informative walks through the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area. Topics include native trees and plants, a late-spring bird walk and a look at the 19th Century engineering feats that created the Canal. Walks will be Saturday mornings at 10 and Sunday afternoons at 3 and last from one to two hours. The Saturday program repeats on Sunday. Walks will start at the raw water pumping station or bulkhead gate. Canal Keeper Society members are free; for others there's a charge of \$2 adult/\$1 child with an \$8 maximum per family group. Some participation limitations may apply according to walk degree of difficulty. (The schedule subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.) For more information call the education coordinator at extension 2.

A WALK IN THE PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

APRIL 24, 25

*Native Trees & Flowers
of the Southeast*

Pumping Station

10:00 am, Sat.; 3:00 pm, Sun.

Guest Interpreter: Dr. Judy Gordon

MAY 22, 23

*Spring Bird Watch-Our Feathered
Friends*

Pumping Station

10:00 am, Sat.; 3:00 pm, Sun.

Guest Interpreter: Mr. Paul Koehler

JUNE 26, 27

Canal Structures, Engineering Feats

Bulkhead Gate

10:00 am, Sat.; 3:00 pm, Sun.

Guest Interpreter: Mr. Tom Robertson



**AUGUSTA
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YES. I want to join the Augusta Canal Keepers Society

First Level (Basic)

- Individual \$45 Student \$30
- Dual/Couple \$65 Family \$100

Second Level \$150-\$499

Third Level \$500-\$999

Lock Master \$1,000+

Edward Cashin Fund for Young Learners

- \$10 Student # _____ Total _____
- \$200 Class # _____ Total _____



Name _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

If this membership or gift is in honor or memory of another person, please check appropriate designation, list honoree's name and to whom you wish an acknowledgement sent:

In honor memory of: _____

Send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please return with payment to:

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Inc.

P.O. Box 2367, Augusta, GA 30903
or Fax to 706-823-1045
or renew online @ augustacanal.com

**THE AUGUSTA
CANAL
AUTHORITY
2010**

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