



2010 Annual Report





Andy Fleming, Executive Director

Leadership Message

The mission of the Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites, Inc. is to partner with the Department of Natural Resources, business and community leaders and Georgians across the state to promote, preserve and support Georgia's state parks and historic sites by providing financial and volunteer support. As the state of Georgia has faced another year of economic struggle, so has our system of state parks and historic sites. Following the massive budget cuts of 2008 and 2009, the state appropriations provided for the maintenance, repair and operation of many of Georgia's most treasured places has continued to decline. In contrast to these reductions, Friends members and chapters have responded overwhelmingly by substantially increasing their volunteer and financial support. This annual report summarizes the good news of how ordinary citizens have joined together to help preserve and support our natural, cultural and historic resources.

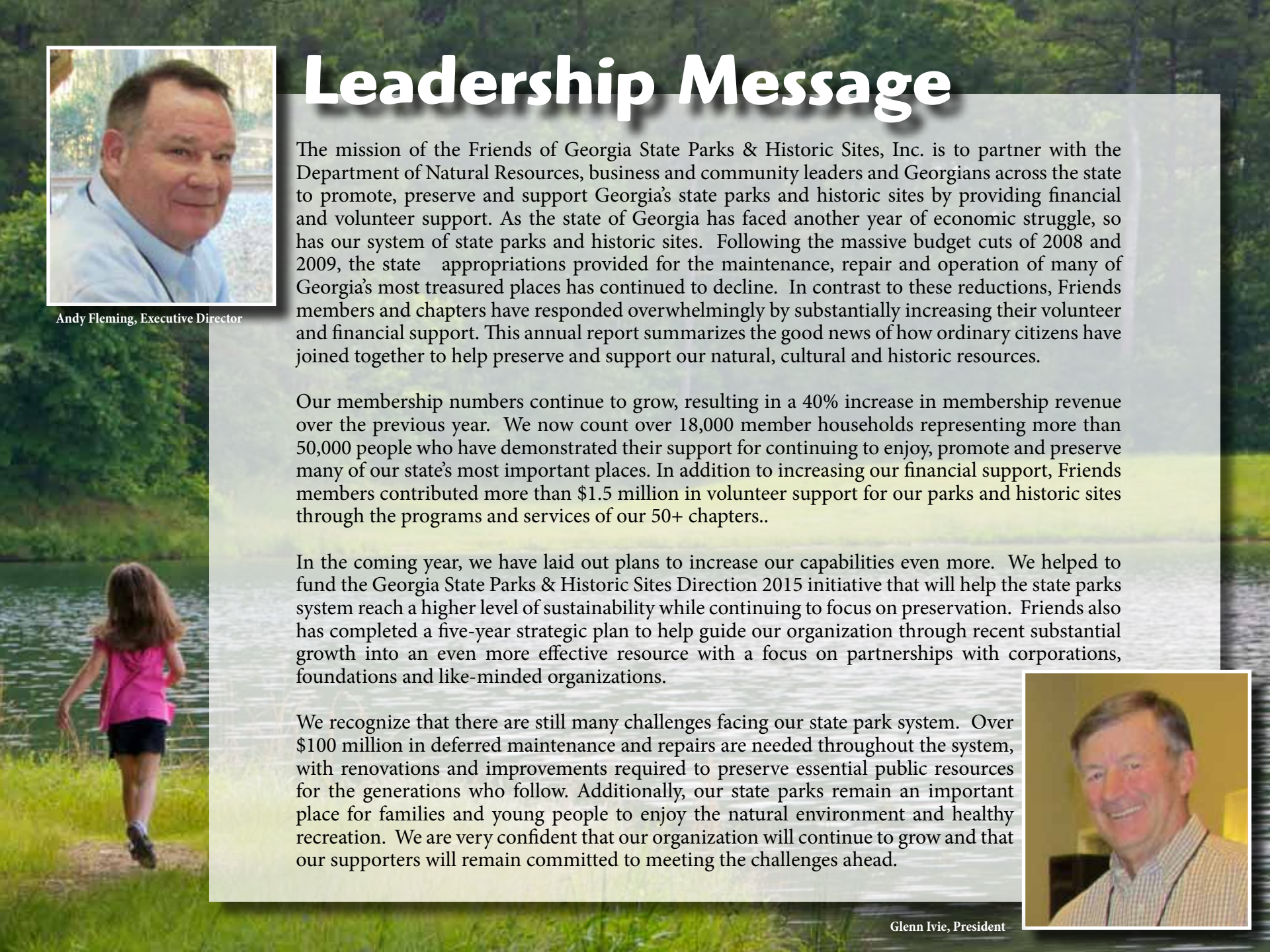
Our membership numbers continue to grow, resulting in a 40% increase in membership revenue over the previous year. We now count over 18,000 member households representing more than 50,000 people who have demonstrated their support for continuing to enjoy, promote and preserve many of our state's most important places. In addition to increasing our financial support, Friends members contributed more than \$1.5 million in volunteer support for our parks and historic sites through the programs and services of our 50+ chapters.

In the coming year, we have laid out plans to increase our capabilities even more. We helped to fund the Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites Direction 2015 initiative that will help the state parks system reach a higher level of sustainability while continuing to focus on preservation. Friends also has completed a five-year strategic plan to help guide our organization through recent substantial growth into an even more effective resource with a focus on partnerships with corporations, foundations and like-minded organizations.

We recognize that there are still many challenges facing our state park system. Over \$100 million in deferred maintenance and repairs are needed throughout the system, with renovations and improvements required to preserve essential public resources for the generations who follow. Additionally, our state parks remain an important place for families and young people to enjoy the natural environment and healthy recreation. We are very confident that our organization will continue to grow and that our supporters will remain committed to meeting the challenges ahead.



Glenn Ivie, President



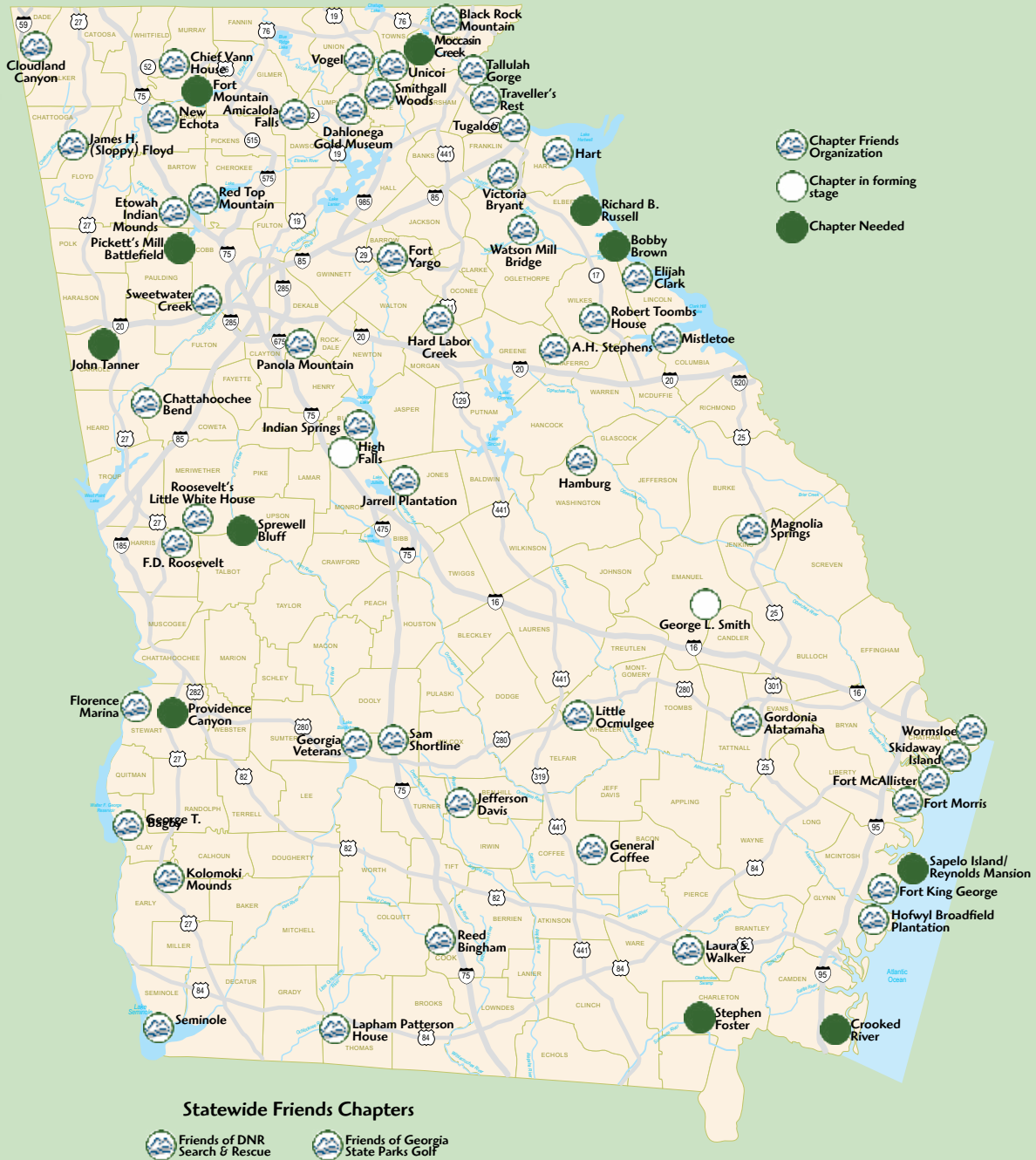
Looking Back

Since our foundation in 1993, Friends has diligently worked to preserve the natural beauties that make Georgia such a great, unique place. Then we were a small contingent of dedicated volunteers with a passion for some of Georgia's parks. Funding was scarce, resources were few and partners were rare, but the mission was just as important.

With the establishment of our membership program, we were able to begin reaching many more park visitors and engaging even more volunteers. Very quickly our twelve charter chapters became twenty, then thirty all the way to the over fifty we have now.

It is our Chapters that make our organization uniquely suited to support our state parks and historic sites. While our staff works at the state level to raise funds, gather new members and coordinate with partners, our volunteer chapters serve their respective parks directly and are able to more efficiently meet the unique needs of each site.

In more recent years we have doubled and redoubled our membership, expanded our capabilities, added more chapters and, most importantly, engaged more members in the support of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites.



Volunteers Spirit

Volunteers are the backbone of what makes Friends so effective at supporting our parks and historic sites. In FY2010, our volunteers contributed more than \$1.5 million in volunteer efforts alone. That is a 40% increase over the prior year and demonstrates the commitment of our chapter leaders and volunteers across the state.

This year, we were pleased to present Bud & Carmen Fitton with the Volunteer Spirit Award. The Volunteer Spirit Award was created in memory of longtime Friends volunteer and Board Member, Jim Burson. Mr. Burson's enthusiasm and passion for our parks was inspirational and the award is presented to the individual or couple who best exemplifies those qualities.

Bud & Carmen, like many of our volunteers, have been supporters of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites for many years. They volunteer extensively at Vogel State Park and on the SAM Shortline excursion train sharing their passion for the outdoors, for history and for preserving the legacy of Georgia State Parks.

While we are proud to single out the Fittons for their dedication, we are also pleased to thank all the other volunteers like them in chapters throughout the state who give of themselves to ensure our state parks and historic sites are preserved and protected for years to come.

THANK YOU!




Providing a Legacy

Our mission at Friends is a simple one: to partner with, preserve and promote Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites. Our efforts directly relate to our mission and the day to day involvement of our volunteers and staff is critical. Here is a small sample of some of our significant accomplishments from the year:

- Contributed funds through our chapters to match their local fundraising efforts resulting in over \$250,000 in direct impact to state park and historic site infrastructure maintenance and repairs.
- Provided over 70,000 hours of volunteer service on projects ranging from park beautification to construction of new or replacement facilities. These hours equate to over \$1.5 million.
- Produced educational materials for the Georgia Assembly, County Commissioners and other constituents highlighting the over \$600 million generated through tourism for the state.
- Sponsored our annual Chapter Conference to educate chapter leaders on critical issues facing our system and to provide specific tools to increase their effectiveness.
- Sponsored two SAVE My State Parks Days. One was a day of service in conjunction with National Public Lands Day and the other at the State Capitol to educate the Georgia's leaders about the importance of our parks and historic sites.

While these accomplishments certainly support our mission, they also help to preserve the legacy of Georgia's treasures for the next generation.



Our parks and historic sites are not just great places to play and learn, they are also economic engines for Georgia. Beyond even that, they are the legacy we will leave behind for the generations to come.



At George T. Bagby State Park in southwest Georgia, volunteers spend time beautifying the entrance sign. As a result of budget cuts, many projects like these would not be possible without Friends.



Friends volunteers across the state descended on their favorite park or historic site for our annual SAVE My State Parks Day. Most projects focused on the \$100+ million in backlogged maintenance and repairs.



At Red Top Mountain in northwest Georgia, the Friends chapter worked with REI to sponsor a day of service in support of National Trails Day. Over 100 volunteers worked with representatives from REI, Friends chapter leaders and park staff to improve several miles of trails that had suffered from washouts and erosion.



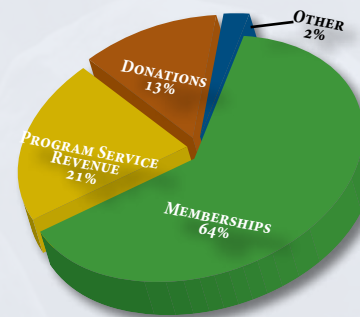
By the numbers

2010 was another year of consistent growth for Friends. As our message reaches more visitors to Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites and as the plight of these treasures grows, so does the support from our members and partners. Our membership base has increased year after year and, in 2010, reached a record of over 18,000 memberships representing more than 50,000 people.

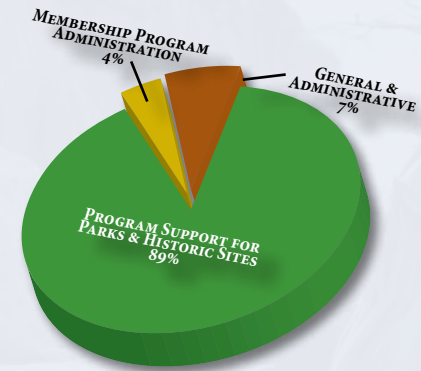
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2010	2009
REVENUES, GAINS AND SUPPORT		
Membership Revenue	\$808,923	\$569,854
Program Service Revenue	269,910	165,356
Donations, Gifts & Grants	161,413	131,654
Other Revenue	30,698	24,231
Total Revenue, Gains & Support	\$1,270,944	\$891,095
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Statewide Program Services	\$269,062	\$183,860
Chapter Program Services	564,761	385,542
Membership Program	40,501	27,658
Management & General	62,343	42,572
Total Expenses	\$936,667	\$639,632
Change in Net Assets (Ops)	\$334,277	\$251,463
Other Changes	(10,000)	
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	915,280	663,817
Net Assets - End of Year	\$1,239,557	\$915,280

2010 REVENUE



2010 EXPENSES



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30, 2010	June 30, 2009
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,019,368	\$708,791
Savings & Temp. Investments	105,628	105,576
Accounts Receivable	97,512	89,693
Other Assets	42,182	36,618
Total Assets	\$1,264,690	\$940,678
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Total Liabilities	\$25,133	\$25,398
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$1,239,557	\$895,280
Temporarily Restricted		20,000
Total Net Assets	\$1,239,557	\$915,280
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,264,690	\$940,678

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Georgia Power Company*

Burt Weerts, VICE PRESIDENT

Director (Ret.), Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites

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Andy Fleming

*Executive Director, Friends of Georgia State Parks &
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Damon Kirkpatrick, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS &
DEVELOPMENT

Deb Goldgehn, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Amy Hess, MARKETING SPECIALIST

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*Find us on facebook:
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*Photos courtesy of:
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Eric Vaughn, Friends Member*

