

OLUSTEE OBSERVER

Vol. 22

April 2009

Editor's Corner

Lord a' mercy, I just love Spring in Florida! I've lived many places in my life, but nothing beats living here. Colorado was cold and muddy, Texas was an icy wind blowing down your back, Alabama was warm but endlessly wet and Ohio still had snow on the ground.

Florida seldom has winters that really define that season, but it did this year, and I mean to tell you, we felt it at our house. We'll probably still have a few chilly days left until Easter, but I've definitely got Spring fever. All I want to do is sleep and eat. I want to plant and plow and get those tomatoes started. I want to throw blankets and comforters out on the grass so they smell like sunshine when I bring them back in, and I want to sit on the back steps and absorb the sun until the sweat pops up on the back of my hands.

Spring and summer are pretty much "off season" for reenactors (unless you're completely insane and do it year round like my husband) and my favorite place in February is the same place it is in April – Olustee. I love to come out to the park and just listen to the birds and the wind in the trees. Solitude such as the park offers gives me balance against a too common enemy – too much going on in my life.

At Olustee, there's a lot going on, but it's of a more soothing nature and

purpose. A few miles into the woods shows you a quiet and serenity unmatched anywhere else and I'm grateful that I have this place so close to home that I can come and recharge when I need it.

This also gives me the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of you, our membership, for being a part of continuing the legacy of this park and keeping it for future serenity seekers.

Please note that the photos included in this edition of the newsletter are just a small representation of what I hope will be included on the Battle of Olustee website in the future. As always, our thanks to Paul Duran for sharing them for our viewing pleasure!

Cris

Welcome New Members!

Jim & Jan Kovarik of Orlando, Florida.

These new members were kind enough to share their enjoyment of the Battle of Olustee this year; so much so, they sent a link to their website which has photos of the event. A very well done and enjoyable site it is! Have a look at the website at: http://www.janktheproofer.com/Olustee_2009.htm. Note: there is an underscore after the word "Olustee."

- Please visit the Battle of Olustee website at <http://battleofolustee.org/> for up to date applications, forms, regulations and schedules for the 2008 Olustee. Kudos to Tom Fasulo, who provides a vital function in updating and maintaining this website on a regular basis. Current web stats on are the following page.
- DVD's of the Battle of Olustee are now available for \$20.00 . Please contact Mitzi Nelson at Margaret A. Nelson@dep.state.fl.us if you are interested in purchasing one (or two or three!)
- The electronic version of *The Olustee Observer* is now available on our website:
<http://battleofolustee.org/cso.htm>

ODDS & ENDS

- Please! Use your Volunteer Log Book. It's the only way to show those long hours you put in service. Please be diligent in recording your volunteer hours – it is especially important in this time of budget crises.
- Also, **did you know** that if you fill in your booklet of volunteer hours and reach 500 hours, the park service in Tallahassee will give you a free family park pass for 1 year!
- **Membership dues** need paid? Send to Olustee CSO. Membership, P.O. Box 382, Glen St. Mary, FL 32040
- **Change of address?** Notify Cris Giddens at Chifos@aol.com or send notification with your next dues payment.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- There will be a Special Board Meeting and the Annual Board Meeting held consecutively on Monday, April 20, 2009 at the Ranger's Station at Olustee. The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- The Olustee Expo will be held on September 26, 2009.



A Haunting Sight
In Remembrance



Home Away from Home
Olustee – 2009

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- The Florida State Parks filming, which will be featured on www.channel2.org in Miami, includes an interview with Tom Fasulo at Olustee and scenes throughout the park during the event. It will be broadcast on PBS, hopefully in the near future. Keep your eye out for it ~ you may see someone you know!
- See new links on the Battle of Olustee website for the histories of the 47th, 48th and 115th New York regiments and a photo of the officers of the 48th New York if you're a Yankee boy at Olustee.
- The screening of a production by CSO members Mary & Joel Fears, ***Essence of History: Filling the Gap***, took place in Orlando recently with film maker Tyrone Young. The docudrama was partially filmed at Olustee and is of great import as an educational tool to all age groups.
- **Olustee Veterans**
Donna Hackett provided information on two of her great-great-grandfathers who served at Olustee with the 6th Florida Infantry Battalion, Pvt. John Proctor and 1st Sgt. Peter Boyer Perry.

Edwin Williams, of Roswell, Georgia, provided information on his great great grandfather, 1st Lt. Henry Milton Williams. He received a disabling wound at Olustee.

- A new book, *With the Flag to Virginia*, by author, Edward G. Cawthon has been offered on Florida regiments. Tom Fasulo highly recommends the book to those interested in Florida regiments (includes the "new" 9th, 10th and 11th Florida Infantry Regiments), particularly the Florida Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. You may order a copy from Mr. Cawthon at 1075 Pelican Peach Drive, NE, Townsend, GA 31331. It is \$15 and includes handling, postage and sales tax.



2nd Place Winner
Ballgown Competition



1st Place Winner
Ballgown Competition



3rd Place Winner
Ballgown Competition

- The Civil War News featured a color photograph of the Friday night artillery firing at the Battle of Olustee on the front page of the April 2009 issue. The issue includes more photographs by Julio Zangroniz and Lydia Filzen and covers numerous young people who are now participating in reenacting.
- Another article reports on the Lake County Historical Society “Friends of History Award for 2008” to CSO member Jeff Grzelak. Many thanks to Jeff for his years of participation and generosity to the park.
- The event at Camp Milton, which occurred the weekend prior to the reenactment at Olustee was photographed and highlighted by Lydia Filzen and mentioned sponsorship by the City of Jacksonville.
- CSO member, Tom Fasulo, was contacted by the Alachua County School District and asked to make a school visit as a Civil War soldier for Littlewood Elementary School in Gainesville, FL. Mr. Fasulo spoke with 40 second and third graders on the uniforms and accoutrements of the soldier, the food they ate, how they lived, the insects which made soldiers lives interesting, and the role of the Florida militia in the Battle of Olustee. The children enjoyed participating in a short exercise in close order drill before Mr. Fasulo left. (See photo of Private Fasulo at right.)



Web Site Statistics – Battle of Olustee
Monthly & Yearly Totals
<http://battleofolustee.org/>

	Page Views	Total Visits	Unique Visitors
2008			
January	23,061	11,338	4,410
February	33,110	12,280	5,371
March	16,023	8,369	3,418
April	18,559	11,334	2,973
May	23,106	12,951	3,920
June	19,214	9,241	2,492
July	21,136	9,241	2,643
August	23,233	8,587	2,695
September	12,622	3,926	2,515
October	10,575	3,335	2,619
November	13,692	4,389	3,319
December	14,078	4,424	3,353
2008 Total	228,409	99,423	39,728
	Page Views	Total Visits	Unique Visitors
2009			
January	22,444	6,706	4,929
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
2009 Total	22,444	6,706	4,929
Last 12 months	227,792	94,791	40,247

OLUSTEE CSO BOARD MEMBERS - 2009

Eric Hague, President

Gary Dickinson, Vice President

Mitzi Nelson, Secretary

Paul Duran, Treasurer

John Thrush

Tom Fasulo

Frank Maloney

Arnold O'Steen

George Scott

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Cris Giddens
Newsletter & Membership

HONORABLE MENTION

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