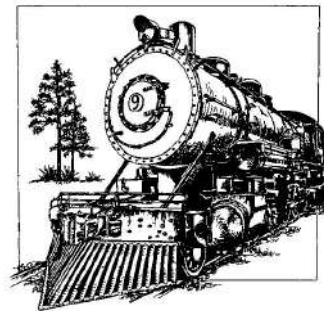


OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER



January
February
March
2023

When Pogo's Father Visited the Ok'fenok' By Larry Purdom

Our memory returns to the good ol' day of PogoFest and to the man who helped put our little corner of the world on the map. He was Walt Kelly, as almost everyone knows, the cartoonist who created Pogo and his lovable menagerie of wise swamp critters.

Back in 1955, Kelly got to thinking that, if he was going to make his living off the Okefenokee, it might be a good idea to visit the area. So it was that the famed cartoonist arrived for his first visit to the Okefenokee swamp, a trip made in conjunction with Kelly's being the keynote speaker at the annual banquet of the Waycross and Ware County Chamber of Commerce. The session was a "complete sellout," according to chamber manager Frank Barfield, held at America Legion Memorial Auditorium. The figure of 350 attendees was noted as "the largest crowd ever to attend the annual chamber meeting."

Retiring president Cecil Herrin called the session to order, after which he delivered the gavel to incoming president E.L. "Razz" Bowen. "Dinner music was rendered by Mrs. Jack Murray at the console of the Wurlitzer Electric Organ." Mr. Kelly entitled his talk, "The American Press-the Last Free Voice of the Free World," but the president of the Cartoonist Society of America laced his talk with plenty of lampooning. One of his best received lines was, "The best humor in the country is straight reporting from Washington."

Kelly visited the Okefenokee in a time of drought, but his visit coincided with a fine rain, for which he received plenty of praise from the local dignitaries. While at the Okefenokee he was feted with just about every kind of swamp vittles known to man, including rattlesnake and possum prepared with much praise by local swamp chef P.D. James. He also enjoyed "Cowhouse Bluegill" prepared by James. Kelly admitted he felt a little bad dining on possum, as the marsupial had been so good to him, along with Albert the alligator and company. At the time, Pogo was read by more than 40 million people a day in the newspapers of America. (continued on page 3)

OHC Calendar

JAN

4-	Board Meeting	12pm
5-	WCHS Football Parade	6pm
10-	OHC Black History Committee	6pm
12-	Clover Heritage Club	4:30pm
16-	MLK, Jr Day	
17-	OHC Photography Guild	6pm
21-	Concert in the Swamp	7pm
24-	OHC Art Guild	5:30pm
25-	Executive Board Meeting	5pm
27-	OHC History Guild	12pm

FEB

1-	Board Meeting	12pm
4-	Handgun Safety Class	9am
9-	Clover Heritage Club	4:30pm
11-	Children's Dog Show	a9m
14-	OHC Black History Committee	6pm
14-	Valentine's Day	
20-	Presidents' Day	
21-	OHC Photography Guild	6pm
22-	Executive Board Meeting	5pm
24-	OHC History Guild Meeting	12pm
28-	OHC Art Guild Meeting	5:30pm

MAR

1-	OHC Board Meeting	12pm
5-	Clover Heritage Club	2pm
12-	Daylight Saving	
14-	Rise & Shine at OHC	7:45am
14-	OHC Black History Committee	6pm
21-	OHC Photography Guild	6pm
22-	Executive Board Meeting	5pm
24-	OHC History Guild	12pm
28-	OHC Art Guild	5:30pm

Okefenokeeheritagecenter.org

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Looking ahead to 2023! We have been planning the upcoming events for the year, and have been considering adding a few more. We are revamping our guilds and hopefully will soon have them all re-organized for 2023, with a couple additional guilds. Stay tuned. If you have not attended one of our guilds lately, please feel free to drop in to see what they're all about. January we are hosting the Waycross Mural Project competition for students 15 - 23yrs. The winner will work with artist, Jorah Mitchell, on additional murals in the surrounding area, sponsored by the Ware Children's Initiative. February we are bringing back our Handgun Safety Class by Dale Wiley, Certified Firearms and Active Shooter instructor. We will also hold a Children's Pet Show sponsored by Mom Prom contestant, Andrea DeLoach and her mother Nickie Carter. That should be a ton of fun! And of course, OHC honors Martin Luther King, Jr. on MLK Day. March is our annual Steve Bean Art Show! It is always a treat to see the amazing art work from the students in our area. Our Tuesday Yoga and Thursday Pop Fusion Dance classes are going strong. As always, we invite you to visit the Okefenokee Heritage Center, even if you have been here before, there is always something new.

The Okefenokee Heritage Center, we're on the right track!

Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director



CHECK OUT WHATS HAPPENING!



Special Thanks to:



Benefiting: Bethesda Recovery

Mom Prom Queen Fundraiser

By Contestant: Andrea DeLoach
At the Okefenokee Heritage Center



CHILDREN'S DOG SHOW
Ages: 5-15yrs

Saturday, Feb 11th, 2023

Call OHC to
pre-register:
912-285-4260

Registration: 9AM
Dog Show: 10AM

Multiple Divisions

Registration Fee:
\$20 per child/dog
\$10 additional sib/dog
\$5 extra ~ "day of"

Basic Handgun Carry Training

Covering: Carry Laws, Safety, Fundamentals & Readiness



Training Provided By:
Dale Wiley
Certified Firearms &
Active Shooter Instructor



Saturday, Feb 4, 2023
9am - 12pm

Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Ave. ~ Waycross, GA

\$35 per person (\$5 discount to OHC Members)

-Includes Free 1-year OHC Membership
-Prerequisite for live range classes (dates to be determined)

To register call: 912-285-4260
or email us at: okeheritage@gmail.com

Sponsored By:



Seating is limited!

WHATS HAPPENING! – CONT.

Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau Ware Children's Initiative Okefenokee Heritage Center Sienna Fox Studio

WAYCROSS MURAL PROJECT

Apprenticeship



Five winning artists, ages 15-23, will receive the opportunity to work alongside professional artist, Jorah Mitchell while creating large exterior murals. Each winning artist will also receive a stipend and reignition in the project's publications. Apprenticeships will be awarded to emerging artists in Ware County via a native species themed juried art competition.

Artwork submissions due by January 3, 2023

TO ENTER COMPETITION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER (912)-285-4260 | OKEHERITAGE@GMAIL.COM | 1460 N Augusta Avenue



Okefenokee Heritage Center
Waycross, GA

Thank you to our sponsors!



(continued from page 1)

Kelly gave a brief rundown of the main characters to the crowd: Pogo, just a little boy; Albert the Alligator, a street corner type who smokes cigars and whistles at passing girls; Beauregard, the expert on everything who keeps bumping into trees; Churchy LaFemme, a devil-may-care lad; Howlin' Owl, pseudo-scientist type full of false knowledge, and Deacon, a false piety character who will do you good even if it kills you.

Accompanying Kelly to the swamp were several national types, including two photographers from Collier's magazine, and photographers and writers from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Hugh Kroell, chamber director, and E.C. Rees, president of the Swamp Park, saw to it that the guests received royal treatment. Rees noted that, so far, there had been half-a-million visitors to the swamp park in its eight years of existence and that many more were predicted to visit in the next two or three years. Journal-Herald reporter Laurie Lee Sparrow had a lot of fun "quoting" several swamp critters on the occasion of Kelly's visit, noting that the Suwanee River was "downright Dusty" in the drought. Photographer Keating from Collier's opined that the swamp was "beautiful, even in January, much less in spring." The drought caused Kelly to say, "Yesterday at the Swamp, there were more photographers than water." That all changed with the coming rain, and a splendid time was had by all, when Pogo's father visited the Okefenokee.

By: Larry Purdom
with Joe Ballentine
"By the Way ... It Happened In Waycross" – Volume III
(for sale at the Okefenokee Heritage Center)



Classes Offered:
Mind over Mat(ter) with Linsey Sauls

Tuesdays at 6pm
912-548-3932

Pop Fusion Dance with April Sheruing Lee

Thursdays at 6pm
912-281-2976

Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Avenue
Waycross, GA 31503
912-285-4260

www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.com

OHC Mission Statement:

The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a cultural art center and local history museum for all people, which seeks to promote an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of history and development of the Okefenokee region through its cultural and educational programs, collections, and exhibitions.

Proudly serving Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce & Ware.



OHC Board of Trustees 22/23

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Sherian Barnes, Office Manager

Garrett Wilson, Intern SGSC

A special thanks to ALL of our
OHC Members!!
Thanks to YOU....
"We're on the right track"!

Invite a friend to join the Okefenokee Heritage Center

Individual	\$36
Family	\$60
Heritage Club	\$100
Billy Bowlegs Society	\$200
Small Business	\$150
Business Sponsor	\$500
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Corporate Partners	\$5,000

* Join one of our many Guilds

All donations are tax deductible

RENT OUR SPACE

You can rent the facilities at the
Okefenokee Heritage Center
for parties, reunions, etc.

Community Room	\$200
Community/Kitchen	\$250
Depot	\$300
The Venue	\$250
Depot	\$300
Warehouse/ Depot	\$400
Grounds	\$200

For more information call:
912-285-4260

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okeheritage@gmail.com