

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society



Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

President's Message

By Bob Sargent

Recent sightings of "northern warblers" in my neck of the woods combined with a hint of yellow in the leaves of my backyard tulip poplar suggest that fall, at long last, might finally be creeping through the cellar door, yet for GOS spring flowers are blooming. While it's true the society is nearly 70 years old, Bill Terrell's gift (see the March 2005 *GOShawk*) has instilled a sense of new-found vigor in GOS. Conservation initiatives we used to dream about have suddenly been vaulted into the realm of possibility. Let me describe that realm as it currently appears.

Our society's mandate calls for the promotion of scientific education, research, and conservation, and our tentative game plan strives to emphasize each of these three worthy goals. Most of our education program will be designed to recruit younger people to birding and ornithology. For example, we're going to cover the cost of sending two people per year to ABA's birding camps. I'm sure you'll be pleased to know that we're going to name this grant program after a man who has given so

Upcoming Events

Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

October 7-9, 2005, Jekyll Island
www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org

GOS Winter Meeting

January 27-29, 2006, Tallahassee, Florida

much to GOS going back to when the society was fledged – Dick Parks. Additionally, we're exploring the possibility of partnering with Audubon chapters across the state to fund and arrange birding classes for children each year, we'll be providing funds to assist with the publication of Georgia's Breeding Bird Atlas, and we're considering a proposal to provide annual assistance for the Important Bird Area (IBA) program. We also hope to partner with nature centers throughout the state by providing them with bird-oriented educational materials, and possibly with teachers to assist with birding classes and field trips.

As for research, in 2006 we plan to increase the money annually provided to graduate students, in Branch Howe's name, up to \$7,500. We'll also be establishing similar grants in Bill Terrell's name, up to \$10,000 per year. The Terrell grants will likely be available to students over a broader geographic area than that supported by the Howe grants. A substantial portion of the money we'll derive from the sale of Bill's two properties, only one of which has sold thus far, will be invested in such a manner that we'll have long-term revenue available to use as needs arise. To ensure we're investing wisely, we've established a six-person finance committee consisting of people with considerable

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**Georgia
Ornithological
Society**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Bob Sargent 478-397-7962
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Bill Lotz
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Anne Mursch
<i>Secretary</i>	Lori Freeman
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<i>Historian</i>	John Swiderski
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<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn www.gos.org

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<i>Earle Greene Award:</i>	John Swiderski	229-242-8382
<i>Earth Share of Georgia:</i>	Mark Beebe	770-435-6586
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Special Projects

<i>Georgia Rare Bird Alert</i>	770-493-8862
Jeff Sewell, Compiler	
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Deadline for article submission is the 1st
of the month prior to publication.

Welcome, New Members!

Life Members

Mark Maloney Atlanta, GA

Sustaining Members

Dennis Tolsma Atlanta, GA

Regular Members

Bryan Harding Fayetteville, GA
James Heath Hartsfield Cairo, GA
Stephen Barlow Atlanta, GA
Margaret and James Else Decatur, GA
David Yon Alpharetta, GA
Ted and Andrew Thens Midland, GA
Rex Jones Marietta, GA
Ann Marie Wilson St. Simons Island, GA
John J. Galvani Brewster, MA
David M. Takeuchi Vallejo, CA
Sheriel G. Veader Macon, GA

Student Members

Libby Mojica Athens, GA
Brandon Noel Statesboro, GA
Cary Leung Atlanta, GA

GOS Membership lists are available upon request to
Angela McMellen, PO Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645 or
gosmembership@gmail.com

Jekyll Island Banding Station Fall Season

Sept 24 – October 16, 2005

The Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS) seeks volunteers to help band birds. For more information, see their web page at www.jibspage.org, or contact Chris Pitman at the following address:

JIBS c/o Chris Pitman
2192 Amber Creek Trail
Buford, GA 30519
770-339-0916
ovenbird@earthlink.net

GOS E-MAIL LIST

In order to more efficiently communicate with our members, GOS has established an e-mail list. The e-mail list will be used to communicate with you about bird conservation issues, membership renewals, birding events in Georgia, and occasional items that may be of interest to GOS members. If you wish to add your e-mail address to the GOS database, please contact Angela McMellen, GOS Membership Chair, at gosmembership@gmail.com.

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

expertise in investment strategies. One possibility we're considering for the use of the interest accrued is to help fund research proposals, especially those which will benefit ornithology in Georgia.

In the conservation arena, we have been in contact with some agencies and non-profit groups about the possibility of partnering to purchase land, likely through a challenge grant arrangement. Potential stipulations for this purchase could include honoring Bill Terrell, buying land that is adjacent to already protected land, buying land that has important ecosystem functions and is important to the survival of non-game species, and ensuring that the land would be owned and maintained by a conservation agency or non-profit group (i.e., not GOS).

This is certainly an ambitious agenda, and I'm sure it will be modified and will grow in the near future. I can't emphasize enough the fact that the success of this agenda is dependent upon increased levels of participation by our membership. In short, we need people to help us with reviewing applications for Dick Parks Birding Camp grants, teaching kids about birds, compiling educational materials, etc. Spring is here and it's an especially enjoyable time to be involved in GOS. Come help us plant some flowers!

Buy a Duck Stamp...Please!

By Georgann Schmalz

Each year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors a stamp-design contest (usually held in the fall), with wildlife artists from across the nation submitting their work for judging by a panel of artists and wildlife experts. The winning art is used on the following year's stamp. After the winning design has been selected, the artwork is submitted to the U.S. Postal Service for production of the stamp. The U.S. Postal Service works with the staff of the Federal Duck Stamp Office and other members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to design and produce a stamp that meets the needs and expectations of the public.

Every year on July 1st, a new Federal Duck Stamp and a new Junior Duck Stamp are released for sale to the public for \$15.00. Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has generated more than \$700 million which has been used to help purchase or lease more than 5.2 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the U.S. The Federal Duck Stamp has a much larger purpose today. Waterfowl are not the only wildlife to benefit from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. Every stamp you purchase supports numerous bird species that rely on wetland habitats: Prothonotary Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Swallow-tailed Kites, and Barred Owls, just to name a few.

We urge you to purchase two stamps; one for yourself and one as a gift to a friend or relative. You can be assured that your purchase is one of the best investments you can make in the future of America's wetlands.

This column was written by Atlanta Audubon President, Georgann Schmalz, and appeared in the AAS newsletter "Wingbars." We thought it an important message to share.

Slate of GOS Officers

Nominating Committee:

Carol Lambert, Chair, Marion Dobbs, Terry Moore

The Nominating Committee of the Georgia Ornithological Society presents the following slate of Officers for the term 2005-2007.

President	Bob Sargent <i>Warner Robins, GA</i>
1st Vice President	Bill Lotz <i>Atlanta, GA</i>
2nd Vice President	Anne Mursch <i>Woodstock, GA</i>
Secretary	Dan Vickers <i>Lilburn, GA</i>
Treasurer	Jeannie Wright <i>Atlanta, GA</i>



Frank McCamey Receives the Dr. Eugene Odum Outstanding Lifetime Service Award

By John Swiderski

GOS life member Frank McCamey was recognized for his lifetime of service and achievement by the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. Frank and his wife, Ginny, were special guests of EEAOG at their annual conference in March at Unicoi State Park, where he received the Dr. Eugene Odum Outstanding Lifetime Service Award.

The award cited Frank's 70 years of leadership in environmental education. Before coming to Georgia, Frank held a number of teaching and research positions: he worked with the Boy Scouts, as a ranger naturalist in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and as a professor of forestry and wildlife management at Michigan State University and at the University of Connecticut.

Frank also at various times served as a board member and/or staff member for such organizations as the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, the Cincinnati Nature Center and the Seven Ponds Nature Center in Michigan.

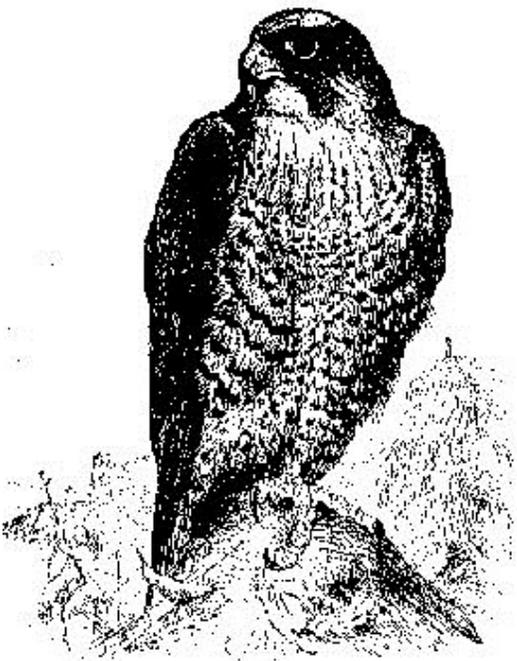


Frank and Ginny McCamey celebrate their 50th anniversary, 1999.

It was his association with the National Science for Youth Foundation and John Ripley Forbes that brought Frank and Ginny to Georgia. In his work with NSYF, Frank helped establish 29 environmental learning centers across Georgia and six other states. He was one of the founders of EEAOG and served on the board of directors of numerous organizations including the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Atlanta Audubon Society, Georgia Botanical Society and, of course, GOS.

Frank joined GOS in 1975 shortly after his arrival in the state. He quickly became active with the Executive Committee and served as president from 1979 to 1983. He was recognized for his service to GOS when he received the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award in 1988.

Congratulations, Frank!



CATS INDOORS! GOS Launches Statewide Campaign

By Carol Lambert

In conjunction with the American Bird Conservancy, GOS is beginning an effort to educate and encourage the public to keep domestic cats indoors.

There are more than 77 million pet cats in the United States. Nationwide polls indicate that approximately 35% are kept indoors, leaving the majority of owned cats free to kill birds and other wildlife. There are also millions of stray and feral cats, possibly as many as 60-100 million. Researchers estimate that cats kill hundreds of millions of birds nationwide annually, as well as a billion small mammals such as rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks. Bird species include common ones as well as endangered species.

This is a difficult, emotional issue for many of us, and one which will, no doubt, raise the ire of multitudes. However, as an organization of people who care strongly about birds and bird habitat conservation, we must acknowledge this problem and do what we can to correct it. Loss of wildlife habitat and fragmentation due to human development are the leading causes of declining bird populations. However, scientists now list invasive species, including cats, as the second most serious threat to bird populations worldwide.

Cats are a big problem in Georgia. They are a problem in our yards as they stalk our bird feeding areas, in our parks, cities and forests, on our farms and on our barrier islands. Many people, especially in rural areas, seem to think that letting a cat out to hunt is a natural part of the food chain. Cats **are not** a natural part of our ecosystems. Today's domestic cat is a descendant of the European and African wild cats. Domesticated in Egypt more than 4,000 years ago, cats may be the most widespread predator in the world. In the U.S., they were not abundant until the late 1800s, when they were brought to help control rodent populations associated with agriculture. Many of you may be thinking that predation of rodents is a good thing, but small native mammals are important to maintaining biologically diverse ecosystems. For instance, field mice and shrews are important prey for raptors such as the Great Horned Owl and Red-tailed Hawk.

Many people who read this own, love and take care of their cats. If you let your cat go outdoors without a leash or without being in a small enclosure, you are not taking care of your cat and you are not being responsible for protecting birds and their habitat. Consider the following facts...not ideas, but facts, as you hear more about this issue in coming months.

- Well-fed cats do kill birds
- Cats with bells on their collars do kill birds
- Cats are never "too old" or "too laid back" to attack a bird or small animal
- Cat-injured wildlife seldom survive, even if they escape
- Outdoor cats can become happy indoor cats
- Your neighbors can be persuaded to keep their cats indoors
- Allowing a cat to roam free is illegal in many jurisdictions
- Outdoor cats are exposed to many hazards, including cars, disease and parasites

Cats kept indoors do miss out on the following experiences: killing birds, getting lost, getting stolen, getting hit by a car, fatal feline diseases, dog attacks, attacks by other cats, abscesses, worms, fleas, ticks

Cats are not ultimately responsible for killing our native wildlife – people are.

The only way to prevent domestic cat predation on wildlife is for owners to keep their cats indoors.

Note: I expect I will hear from some or many of you about this issue, and that's fine. I encourage all thoughtful comments and suggestions. It will be discussed further in this publication and on the GOS website. The greater issue of feral cats must also be examined. Many states have tried different solutions to this enormous, sad problem that humans have created through their irresponsibility and abandonment of pets.

Carol Lambert, Chair
Conservation Committee

Be a responsible pet
owner. Keep your
cat indoors...



Each year, thousands of outdoor cats are killed by cars or die from disease. Hundreds of millions of birds and other animals are killed by free-roaming cats. Indoor cats live happier, healthier, longer lives.

For more information:
www.abcbirds.org



EXHIBITION OF THE PAINTINGS OF RICHARD A. PARKS

By John Swiderski

Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, will hold a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the GC&SU Library and Information Technology Center on Tuesday, October 6, 2005, at 11 a.m. The ceremony will be held on the steps of the old library building, which has been extensively renovated for its new role as the Museum and Archives building.

The paintings of Richard A. Parks will be featured in an exhibition in the Main Gallery of the museum. He has selected some 50 paintings for the exhibition and they will be on display throughout the month of October and in early November. After the grand opening the museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. This is a rare opportunity to view a large number of Dick's paintings and he will be at the museum on October 6th for the opening.

There are two additional galleries in the museum. One features a permanent exhibit from the museum's Flannery O'Connor collection. The other will feature an exhibit drawn from the late Senator Paul Coverdell papers.

The GC&SU Library complex is located at the corner of Clarke and Montgomery Streets in Milledgeville. Clarke Street is also US Highway 441 Business Route.

When you come to the campus to view the Parks paintings, you should consider visiting the beautifully restored Old Governor's Mansion, also located on the GC&SU campus

about one block south of the library complex on Clarke Street. The Mansion was home to eight of Georgia's governors from 1839 to 1868. Tours are given on the hour Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In Memoriam: Roger G. Atchison **September 1, 1934 to June 17, 2005**

By Erin Bouthillier

After a life richly lived, Roger Atchison died in the loving arms of his daughters on June 17. Roger was an avid birder and enjoyed sharing his love of the outdoors with everyone he met. He had just returned from a 3,000-mile drive in search of secretive grouse, and was known for tracking down Sandhill Cranes and Swallow-tailed Kites. He was a member of GOS, FOS, Tallahassee Audubon, and Duval Audubon. Roger was a regular participant in the Callaway Gardens and Port St. Joe Christmas bird counts.

The joy of Roger's life most recently was being a grandfather, "Pappa Scruffy Face" to Sarah Elisabeth (3 years) and Helen Nicole (3 months) Bouthillier. Roger had already begun to teach Sarah about birds, wildlife, food in the forest, and respecting Mother Nature's creatures. In addition to his grandchildren, Roger is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Elaine and Brad Gause and Erin and William Bouthillier, and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers or services, please raise a glass to Roger, tell a good story or two, and send donations to The Listening Place, a magical spot for people of all ages to watch birds and wildlife to: Birdsong Nature Center, 2106 Meridian Road, Thomasville, GA 31792.

Address Changes

If your address changes, please notify us directly by mail (P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645) or by e-mail (gosmembership@gmail.com). As a non-profit organization, we are able to mail items to you at a bulk (i.e., discounted) rate. This is a great cost savings for us, but it means that our items WILL NOT be forwarded to you if you move. We do not want you to miss out on any of our newsletters, meeting announcements, or journals!

In Memoriam: A Celebration of Arlene Clark

By Ken Clark

[Editor's Note: Arlene Clark passed away on August 10th after a brief illness. The following eulogy was written by her husband and former GOS president Ken Clark, and was read at the Memorial Service at Hart's Mortuary in Macon by her good friend, Ty Ivey.]

Arlene Clark was the youngest daughter of Peter Neketin of Russia and Valentina Zavisha Neketin of Poland, who had immigrated to America in 1910 and settled on a homestead near the fishing and lumbering hamlet of Nehalem, Oregon. Her mother died when she was seven, and the older children departed the nest, leaving her the woman of the house till she was in high school. She helped her father in his work of trapping for animal skins, keeping milk cows and chickens, tending bees for saleable honey and growing most of their vegetables. She cared for a small zoo of wild creatures her father kept to attract customers for his honey business. One of them, a raccoon, became a pet. She developed a remarkable ability to relate to animals and birds, both wild and domestic.

Her father eventually remarried, and Arlene went to live with her oldest sister in Portland, where she finished high school with honors at Girls' Polytech. There she polished her skills of preparing and serving meals, keeping house, caring for the sick and other practical talents as well as an appreciation of art, music, literature and other civilized pursuits. She was offered a scholarship to prestigious Reed College in Portland, but was financially unable to accept it. She got a job fixing typewriters at the Royal Typewriter Company instead.

During World War II, Arlene accompanied a girl friend on an adventurous trip to San Antonio, Texas, and met the young second lieutenant fresh out of flying school whom she married and spent the rest of her life with - nearly 62 years. When her husband went off to war, she stayed with his folks in Seattle, Washington, and filled a desperate need for nurses' aides at a local hospital, a skill she had learned at Girls' Poly.

After the war, and for the next 30 years, Arlene and Ken lived the lives of a typical military family - making homes in various stateside locations and overseas in Japan, England and Puerto Rico. When Ken attended a school in the Florida panhandle, they rented a house at Mexico Beach and spent a lot of time beachcombing. Arlene started a shell collection, added to wherever they met oceanside in their travels. She bought a dozen or more books on shell identification, one of them in Japanese, and cataloged and mounted her collection to museum quality. When they came to Macon years later, she



Arlene Clark with injured Red-tailed Hawk.

donated her collection to the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Another hobby was painting. Largely self-taught, she honed her skills in various mediums and recorded her impressions of the world as she saw it. When the opportunity presented itself, she took up ceramics, and decorated her homes with her work. And everywhere she gardened. Every place she called home was made more beautiful by her plantings, her trimming, her "green thumb." Her sport for many years was golf, and like her other pursuits, she was good at it. She won prizes and recognition in most of her activities, but she didn't particularly seek them. She may have sold one painting in her life, but that was to a friend who insisted on paying for what was really intended as a gift.

With it all, Arlene and Ken had always enjoyed horseback riding when it was available. In Puerto Rico they acquired three Paso Finos, noted for their smooth gait, and brought them to Georgia when Ken retired from the Air Force in 1974. They built a "three-horse ranch" in west Bibb County and enjoyed a life close to nature, to wild creatures and domestic, and to working with the land. It is this period of her life that most of us here associate with Arlene. She became active in the Ocmulgee Audubon Society and the Georgia Ornithological Society and adopted birding as a hobby with the same determination and skill she had shown in shelling and painting. In a few years she was getting calls from peo-

(Continued on page 8)

Arlene Clark (continued from page 7)

ple with injured or abandoned birds, and responding with the practical, understanding approach to wild creatures in distress she had learned as a girl. She rescued a young Red-tailed Hawk with an injured wing and kept it alive and thriving until a DNR ranger could retrieve it. She raised baby rabbits, squirrels, bluebirds and nuthatches. She was adopted by a middle-aged white goose, who became her guardian and companion. She built and planted a bountiful garden and harvested corn, strawberries, blueberries, cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes. She built concrete borders for the lawns and laid a flagstone patio for the swimming pool.

She responded to requests to give talks on birds and birding to school children, garden clubs, even business groups. For the State Fair one year she painted over fifty illustrations of individual birds common to middle Georgia and won three ribbons, including the state fair-wide educational award. She then crafted canvas carriers for these posters and toted them to her bird talks to help teach recognition.

In her 70's she was a doughty companion on many a bird-walk. With her keen sense of hearing she could tell the difference between a mockingbird and a thrasher sounding off in the bush. She enjoyed being in the field with her birding friends. Turning 80, the demons of forgetfulness began to overtake her. This once keen-minded lady, who could navigate herself from coast to coast in this great land, could not find her way to the grocery store. The names of thousands of shells, hundreds of birds, and countless wild and domestic plants disappeared from her memory.

She lived in dread of being left alone and helpless in this world. Now she need no longer struggle against the demons, or live in fear. She is at peace. And we are all better for having known her.

In Memoriam: Ralph L. Ramsey, GOS Member Since 1938*By John Swiderski*

Ralph L. Ramsey, one of the few remaining members from the earliest days of GOS, passed away on November 26, 2004. He was 84 and was a life-long resident of Atlanta.

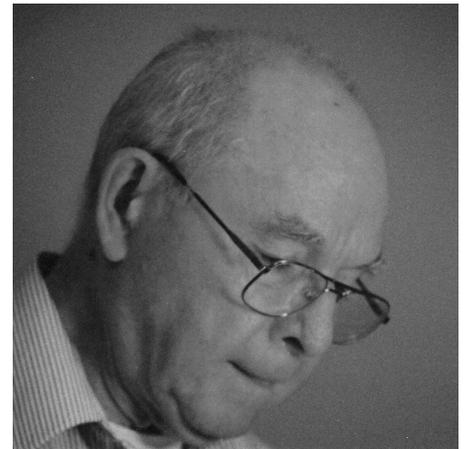
Ramsey was an active member of the Atlanta Bird Club, which led to his membership in GOS in 1938. Just a year later, he agreed to become GOS business manager and served in that position for 22 years! Ralph had a keen interest in other things besides birds, including photography, plants, creatures of all kinds, rocks and minerals and music.

After returning from World War II service in the South Pacific, Ralph was a graduate student in Biology at Emory University when he started his career with the State Health Department of Georgia in 1947. During his long tenure with the Health Department he conducted epidemiological research, including studies of the hook worm in children. Later he did research on tick-borne diseases, rabies in bats, and mosquito control. He was a pioneer in the Health Department in the use of the electron microscope.

He met his future wife, Carolyn, at the Health Department, where she worked. They also shared a mutual interest in the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, and Carolyn remembers that they did most of their "courting" there. They were married in 1958 and Carolyn soon learned that being married to a GOS business manager meant that there would be a lot of boxes and files around the house! She also remembers that their honeymoon included Wakulla Springs and St. Mark's Wildlife Refuge prior to attending the spring GOS meeting in Waycross.

Ramsey was also active in Boy Scouts, both as a youth and as a leader and counselor. It was through the Boy Scouts that Ralph became acquainted with the late George Dorsey, also a long-time GOS member.

With Ramsey's passing the remaining members from our earliest years are Dr. Norman Giles and Dick Parks, both of whom became members in 1936, and Milton Hopkins, whose membership dates back to 1939.



Ralph Ramsey, GOS business manager for 22 years.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 181
High Shoals, GA 30645

Please enroll the undersigned as a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society for the calendar year.
Dues are enclosed as follows:

_____ Regular \$20.00 _____ Sustaining \$30.00
_____ Patron \$50.00 _____ Student \$10.00

(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)

_____ Life Membership \$300.00

_____ Please send me a list of publications available from the GOS.

NAME(S):

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS, PHONE OR E-MAIL CHANGES TO:
Angela McMellen, GOS, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645

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