

Sections:

- The Story of Yahula
- On the Trail
- Around the Bend
- About the Conservancy

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The Garden of Eatin' in full bloom

It is wonderful to participate with the seasons in our gardens, and we can build and care for 'gardens' in just about any area of our living. Actually, if you look into the root meaning of the word 'garden', it relates to an enclosed area in which you form or build something heavenly! We could well ask what we are growing in our gardens (our homes, our jobs, our relationships...) and how we are caring for them. Wise gardening requires a knowledge and sensitivity of the seasons. As they say..."for every thing there is a season" – a time for planning, planting, blooming and harvesting.



Here at the Yahoola Creek Park Garden, we are in full bloom, and enjoying the beauty of the season! How beautiful it is to be rewarded for the work of planning and planting with the explosive coming into color of flowers, fruits and vegetables that are good for the soul and the

body. A flower is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful things in nature – and you can see why...it is the culminating point of all that went into the process of growth, and it rewards us with luscious combinations of color, scents and the fruit that follows.



As YCTC members gather in the garden on a summer day to water and weed this precious place, it is evident that flowers and vegetables are not the only fruits of our labors. Friendships, collaborations, and community have sprung from our work together over the previous months – resources that can be extended to others beyond our own enclosure as we share the beauty and richness of our living and our garden with them. This is the task of the season – to share in a celebration of the bounty of life!

So, share your garden with those around you – give someone you know a smile and a hug, a helping hand, a great idea, a flower from your garden, a fresh garden salad or a delicious plate of green vegetables straight from the earth! The Garden of Eatin' boasts lettuce, beets, Swiss chard, peppers, strawberries, eggplant, pumpkins, corn, pole beans, sweet potatoes, yellow squash, zucchini and a multitude of herbs such as Feverfew, Chives, Fennel and St. John's Wort.



To help you in enjoying the season, here is an easy, lovely recipe for preparing Swiss chard... simply sauté a little garlic and ginger in sesame oil, then add the Swiss chard and stir for a few minutes until just wilted. Serve with a smile and watch the smiles come back to you!! Bon appétit!

The Story of Yahula

“Years ago, long before the American Revolution, Yahula was a prosperous trader among the Cherokee.”

Although one of the translations of the Cherokee word “Yahula” is the insect known as the antlion or “doodlebug”, it was also a common personal name among the Cherokee. James Money recorded the following story in Myths of the Cherokee in 1900. Mooney’s source for the story was a Cherokee named James Wafford also known as Tsuskwanun’nawa’ta or “Worn-out-blanket”. He was a respected member of his tribe born near the present Clarkesville, Georgia in 1806. The story was told to him by an uncle who settled on Yahoola Creek shortly after the American Revolution. Here is the story he told:

Years ago, long before the American Revolution, Yahula was a prosperous trader among the Cherokee, and the tinkling of the bells hung around the necks of his ponies could be heard on every mountain trail. Once there was a great hunt and all the warriors were out, but when it was over and they were ready to return to the settlement Yahula was not with them. They waited and searched, but he could not be found, and at last they went back without him, and his friends grieved for him as for one dead. Some time after, his people were surprised and delighted to have him walk in among them and sit down as they were at supper in the evening. To their questions he told them that he had been lost in the

mountains, and that the Nunne’hi, the Immortals, had found him and brought him to their town, where he had been kept ever since, with the kindest care and treatment, until the longing to see his old friends had brought him back. To the invitation of his friends to join them at supper he said that it was now too late -- he had tasted the fairy food and could never again eat with human kind, and for the same reason he could not stay with his family, but must go back to the Nunne’hi. His wife and children and brother begged him to stay, but he said he could not; it was either life with the Immortals or death with his own people -- and after some further talk he rose to go. They saw him as he sat talking to them and as stood up, but the moment he stepped out the doorway he vanished as if he had never been.

After that he came back often to visit his people. They would see him first as he entered the house, and while he sat and talked he was his old self in every way, but the instant he stepped across the threshold he was gone, though a hundred eyes might be watching. He came often, but at last their entreaties grew so urgent that the Nunne’hi must have been offended, and he came no more. On the mountain at the head of the creek, about 10 miles above the present Dahlonega, is a small square enclosure of uncut stone, without roof or entrance.

Here it was said that he lived, so the Cherokee called it Yahula’i (Yahula place) and called the stream by the same name. Often at night a belated traveler coming along the trail by the creek would hear the voice of Yahula singing certain favorite old songs that he used to like to sing as he drove his pack of horses across the mountain, the sound of a voice urging them on, and the crack of a whip and the tinkling of bells went with the song, but neither driver nor horses could be seen, although the sounds passed close by. The songs and the bells were heard only at night.

There was one man who had been his friend, who sang the same songs for a time after Yahula had disappeared, but he died suddenly, and then the Cherokee were afraid to sing these songs any more until it was so long since anyone had heard the sounds on the mountain that they thought Yahula must be gone away, perhaps to the West, where others of the tribe had already gone. It is so long ago now that even the stone house may have been destroyed by this time, but more than one old man’s father saw it and heard the songs and the bells a hundred years ago. When the Cherokee went from Georgia to Indian Territory in 1838 some of them said, “Maybe Yahula has gone there and we shall hear him,” but they have never heard him again.

“...the sound of a voice urging them on, and the crack of a whip and the tinkling of bells went with the song, but neither driver nor horses could be seen...”

On the Trail

Folk Art Fund-raising

Visitors to the trails have been enjoying the lively folk art hiking sticks for loan at the trailhead kiosk that were created and donated by George Faulkner. Now they can buy their own! George has embarked on a fund-raising campaign for the Conservancy by painting and placing dozens of similar hiking sticks for sale at these locations:

- Firehouse Coffee, Longbranch Rd across from Home Depot
- Aunt Faye's Attic on Hwy 129, just past the Jim Hood Rd intersection

Please encourage folks to stop in at these businesses to see George's work and help support the Conservancy by purchasing one of these unique hiking sticks.

Along the Trail

Fewer flowers are blooming during this hot and dry time of the year, but there are a few special plants to take note of along the trail right now. Spotted touch-me-nots, desmodium (tick-trefoil), trumpet creeper, and false foxgloves are all showing full blooms. Black cohosh blooms are nearly spent. Pawpaws are in fruit, and hazelnuts are developing.

Phase II Update

The Trails Advisory Committee, under the

fearless leadership of Sallie Sorohan, has cleared all the bureaucratic hurdles for the trail building to begin around the reservoir. We are now awaiting the imminent approval and go-ahead from the Georgia Recreational Trails Program. The county has already begun the selection process for the trail builder. Anticipated start of the trail building effort will be September, and the trail is expected to be finished by December 2009. Once the trail building begins, we will be notifying members of opportunities to assist with this exciting effort.



Trout Unlimited Volunteers

Not a fish in sight, but that hasn't stopped members of the Gold Rush Chapter of Trout Unlimited from working hard for this community space. Caging tomatoes, planting trees, weeding, and installing creative deer deterrents have been a few of the important tasks that the half dozen TU volunteers have undertaken at the trails in recent months. They are a wonderful source of energy and enthusiasm!

Boy Scouts Give Us a Place to Sit

An Eagle Scout project installed much needed benches, an adult swing, and shade trees to the swing area in June. They did a fantastic job!



Bass Pro Shops Event

Although the parking lot was hot the kids and parents thought painting walking sticks was cool. We raised almost \$200 at this fundraising event in Lawrenceville in June.



July 4th Fundraiser

Our tent in Hancock Park in Dahlonega raised over \$400 and signed on 11 new members on what turned out to be a picture perfect Independence Day.



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Thank you for your
continued support!

Around the Bend

Here is a list of upcoming autumn and late summer events:

- **August Second Saturday Volunteer Work Day**--come help enhance and maintain the trails and trailhead space: August 9, 8:00 am to the last volunteer standing. Contact yahoolacreektrails@windstream.net
- **September Second Saturday Volunteer Work Day**--come help enhance and maintain the trails and trailhead space: September 13, 8:00 am to the last volunteer standing. Contact yahoolacreektrails@windstream.net
- **River Rendezvous**--YCTC is hosting the annual River Rendezvous headquarters organized by North Georgia College and State University, where volunteers will utilize the trailhead as a center for gaining and reporting information gathered from river samples across the county. September 20.
- **National Public Lands Day**--join volunteers from across the state who are coming to help us build the reservoir trail! September 27, 8:00 am. Visit <http://www.publiclandsday.org/involved/index.htm> for more information.
- **Native Plant Sale**--this fall fundraiser will offer the preorder selection of dozens of hardy native perennials from a local grower just in time for the fall planting season. Order September 15 - October 3, plant pick-up October 11.
- **Quarterly Membership Meeting**--all members are encouraged to attend and provide input on the direction and planning for the trails. September 17, 7:00 pm, Parks & Recreation Center.
- **October Second Saturday Volunteer Work Day**--come help enhance and maintain the trails and trailhead space: October 11, 8:00 am to the last volunteer standing. Contact yahoolacreektrails@windstream.net
- **Yahoola Creek Night Hike**--YCTC has partnered with North Georgia College and State University to offer a night hike event for area youth at the park trails. Guided trail experiences, storytelling, astronomy, live animals, crafts, and refreshments will be a part of this exciting, educational community event. October 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm.
- **November Second Saturday Volunteer Work Day**--come help enhance and maintain the trails and trailhead space: November 8, 8:00 am to the last volunteer standing. Contact yahoolacreektrails@windstream.net

About The Conservancy...

The Yahoola Creek Trails Conservancy (YCTC) is a new, nonprofit (501(c)3 candidate) community-sponsored organization whose mission is to enhance and preserve the Yahoola Creek Park Hiking Trails.

The YCTC is a strong advocacy and support group that assists with the development of the trails, and also assists local and state officials in their efforts to create a safe and vibrant hiking trail system.

Thank you to all current and new members for the time and money you have contributed to make the Trails and Conservancy possible!