



Birdsong Nature Center
2106 Meridian Road
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
birdsong@birdsongnaturecenter.org
www.birdsongnaturecenter.org
(229) 377-4408 (800) 953-2473



2015 House and Garden Improvements Campaign

Dear Friends of Birdsong,

August 20, 2015

Birdsong Nature Center will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary in April 2016! This is a significant milestone and we plan to celebrate 30 years of achievements with a series of special events and parties honoring our founders, donors, members and volunteers. We want Birdsong to enter 2016 in excellent shape and looking its very best so we are asking for your support in making the following improvements to restore and beautify our historic house and gardens this summer:

- Paint and refurbish the main house and office building.

Birdsong's historic farmhouse is one of its most valuable assets. It has a rich and complex history and it serves as our main facility for greeting guests, teaching classes, holding meetings, and giving visitors a unique experience at the original Bird Window. The building is being repainted inside and out; it was last painted in 1994. The back porch will receive new flooring and carpeting, and the office building will receive some minor repairs and repainting.

- Renovate the gardens surrounding the house and the Bird Window area.

Co-founder Betty Komarek designed and developed the informal gardens around the house and Bird Window over her long tenure at Birdsong. In the interest of keeping expenses down, Birdsong has not had a paid gardener for many years and we have relied on volunteer support and occasional part-time help to keep the gardens in shape. The Butterfly Garden receives excellent regular attention from its team of volunteers dedicated to its maintenance, but the house garden has not had this same level of care. We want to hire a gardening contractor for five months to renovate and restore the garden and the Bird Window site.

- Repair the entrance driveway, parking area, and road leading out on the property.

Our Red Hills clay road and parking area is subject to the erosive effects of heavy rains alternating with dry times and the ongoing presence of visitors' and staff vehicular traffic. We will grade and level our road and parking area, shape it to help prevent erosion, and surface it with gravel.

The total cost for these improvements is \$25,000. Will you help with this important project by making a gift to the 2015 House and Garden Campaign? We would greatly appreciate your support! We are pleased to report that *we already have received donations of \$16,000 or 64% of the total* projected cost from generous donors, board members and staff. Gifts to Birdsong and the Campaign are tax-deductible as allowed by law. If you would like to help, we ask that you please send with your gift to Birdsong by September 15th. You may US-mail your gift to Birdsong at the address above or donate online at our Website, www.birdsongnaturecenter.org.

The house and driveway projects will be scheduled during the month of August, and gardening will continue throughout the fall. To accommodate the painters, we will close the house and Bird Window during the month of August, as stated in the last newsletter and on the Website. We plan to celebrate the completion of these efforts in the month of October with a special reception and program for all our donors, date to be determined; please see more details below.

We sincerely appreciate your support for Birdsong and look forward to hearing from you. Please call me personally at (850)254-5358 if you have any questions about these projects or about making a gift.

With warm regards,

Joe Peresich
President
Board of Directors

DONOR APPRECIATION

To show our deep appreciation for gifts made to this House and Garden Improvements Campaign, here are some special ways we want to thank and honor our donors:

Any Amount - For making a gift of any amount to the Campaign, you will receive a special invitation to a donor appreciation party in October, date to be determined. At this event we will thank everyone, introduce our major donors, and unveil a plaque featuring their names that will be displayed at the back porch entrance for a period of three years. There will be refreshments, music, and tours of the house and garden. You will also be thanked in a special article in the Birdsong newsletter.

Gifts of \$100 and above - The above benefits plus a copy of a beautiful poem called “The Clearing”, by Denise Levertov. June Bailey White discovered this poem and recognized Birdsong in it. She has written it out by hand and we have made copies on parchment.

Gifts of \$250 and above - The above benefits plus a framed color photo of the refurbished house and garden.

Gifts of \$500 and above - The above benefits plus a collage of black and white historic photos of the house and garden, including photos from the Dickey family era and the early Komarek era, and/or a framed photo of yourself and family or guests in front of the house.

Gifts of \$1000 and above - The above benefits plus a private tour of Birdsong and refreshments at the Listening Place or Bird Window for up to eight guests with Executive Director Kathleen Brady, Board President Joe Peresich and other Board members.

Gifts of \$2500 and above - The above benefits plus a rustic overnight stay for up to four people at the Listening Place.

Gifts of \$5,000 and above - In addition to the above benefits, donors of \$5,000 and above will receive a private advance tour of the house and property, their names will be engraved on a plaque that will be displayed at the back porch entrance for a period of three years, and they will be introduced and honored publicly at the donor appreciation party in October.

