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DORIS BURROWS

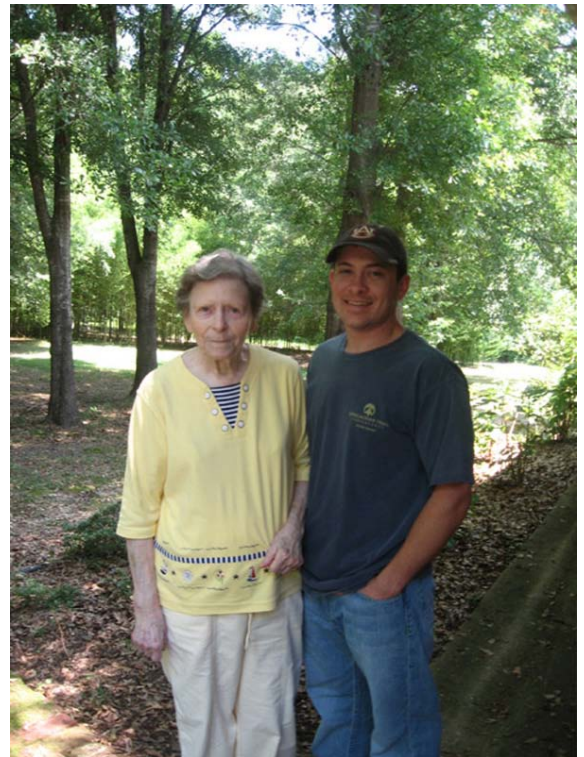
BURROWS EASEMENT HONORS FATHER’S LOVE OF CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK PROPERTY

The last owner of the Burrows property along Choccolocco Creek, John Legard, “never sold a piece of land,” says Doris Burrows, “except to Dad.”

Her father’s great love of the property compelled Mrs. Burrows in 2009 to place the 45-acre property in Talladega County, Ala. into a conservation easement held by Alabama Land Trust.

Legard had mined gravel on the property. The resultant borrow pits were reclaimed as ponds that are now outlined with mature hardwoods. Silver mining was common throughout the area, although it is now remembered only in place names like Silver Mine Road, which runs near the property.

The ponds provide great fishing, according to Burrows’ grandson, Craig, and the bottoms provide habitat to deer, turkeys, bobcat, fox, all kinds of snakes, Canadian geese....and beavers. “One year the beavers cut down a lot of the trees,” Craig notes, “but they’re not as busy now.”



Doris Burrows with grandson Craig

Mrs. Burrows reports that one of her favorite aspects of the property is the profusion of wildflowers it hosts and her father’s favorite pecan tree. “I used to love to come out here with my father. He loved the whole property and particularly the old pecan tree in the back yard. We would come out together and gather the pecans.”

Her father raised cows and soybeans on the property and maintained a cattle auction business with a sales barn. She recalls that her husband, Huey Burrows, loved the wildlife and kept barrel of corn on the property to feed the ducks there. “They would hear his truck and come running.”



Choccolocco Creek

Mrs. Burrow's father bought the land when he came back to Alabama from Arkansas where he'd also raised cattle. "He was from this area, but moved to Arkansas. It took him a while to make up his mind between Arkansas and Alabama," she says.

Saying she was "always a city girl," Mrs. Burrow laughs that "I wasn't country until I came here." After she and Huey assumed ownership of the property, Mrs. Burrows felt they needed to move onto the property to properly protect and maintain it. The property had been leased by hunting clubs but their stewardship wasn't adequate to the task.

At one point the property provided the only connection between two county seats, Oxford in Calhoun County, Ala. and Talladega in Talladega County, Ala. A hardened stream crossing allowed traffic to cross Choccolocco Creek and carry on commerce between the cities.

Transportation also played helped in Mrs. Burrows' decision to convey the easement. She hopes that the easement will provide the land some protection from a proposed new route coming down from Oxford. "I didn't want that (development) to happen to the land. I want it to stay like it is forever."