

# BELL PLANTATION



**Military & Police  
Appreciation Day**

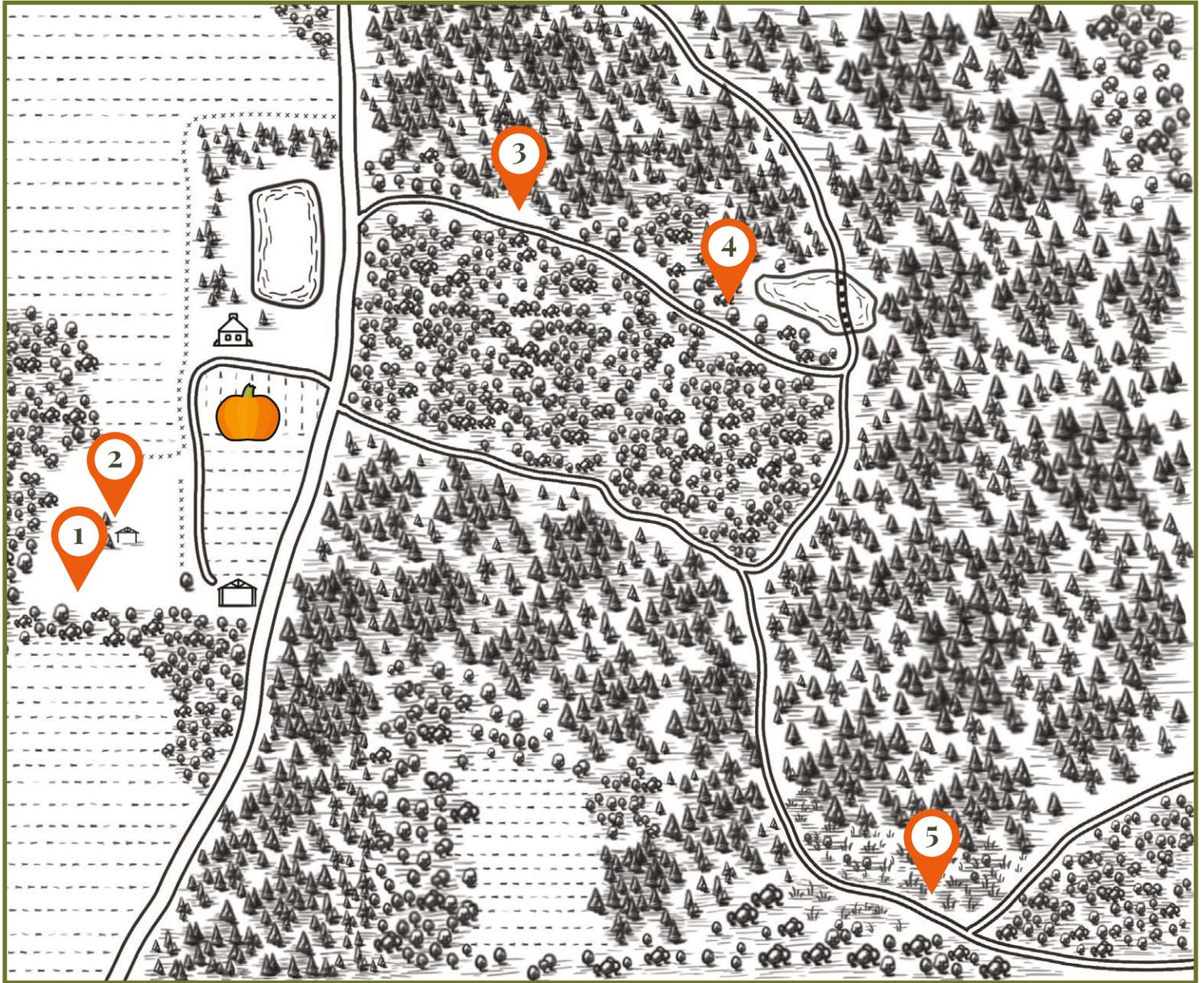
# Schedule

0800	Guests arrive and register
0830	Presentation of Colors
0845	Greeting, Invocation, National Anthem
0855	Veterans / M&P Shooting Teams /Special Guests - Recognitions & Introductions
0930	Shooting Team Assignments, Competition Briefing
0945	Group Photos
1000	First & Second Shooting Rounds
1200	Introduction of Special Guest
1220	Prayer and Chow
1330	Third, Fourth, Fifth Shooting Rounds
1530	Snacks, closing comments, and recognition of winners of shooting competition
1600	Benediction

After the formal schedule, participants are free to depart for home or they can enjoy a Historic Weapons Briefing or shoot at any of the ranges, all of which will be open for the remainder of the afternoon (BYOB - bring your own bullets).



# Bell Plantation



	Cabin		Fence
	Small Barn		Crops
	Big Barn		Bridge

**Please visit our garden to pick pumpkins and gourds!**



	<b>The PFC Donald E. Sanders Shotgun Range</b>
	<b>The CSM Sam Spivey Rifle Range</b>
	<b>The MGySgt William Hamby Pistol Range</b>
	<b>The SGT William Harmon Pistol Range</b>
	<b>The 1stLT Weston Lee Maneuver Range</b>



# ABOUT THE PLANTATION

*The lands of the Bell family find their roots in Calhoun County, GA. The heritage of the ownership of these properties is as rich as the land itself.*

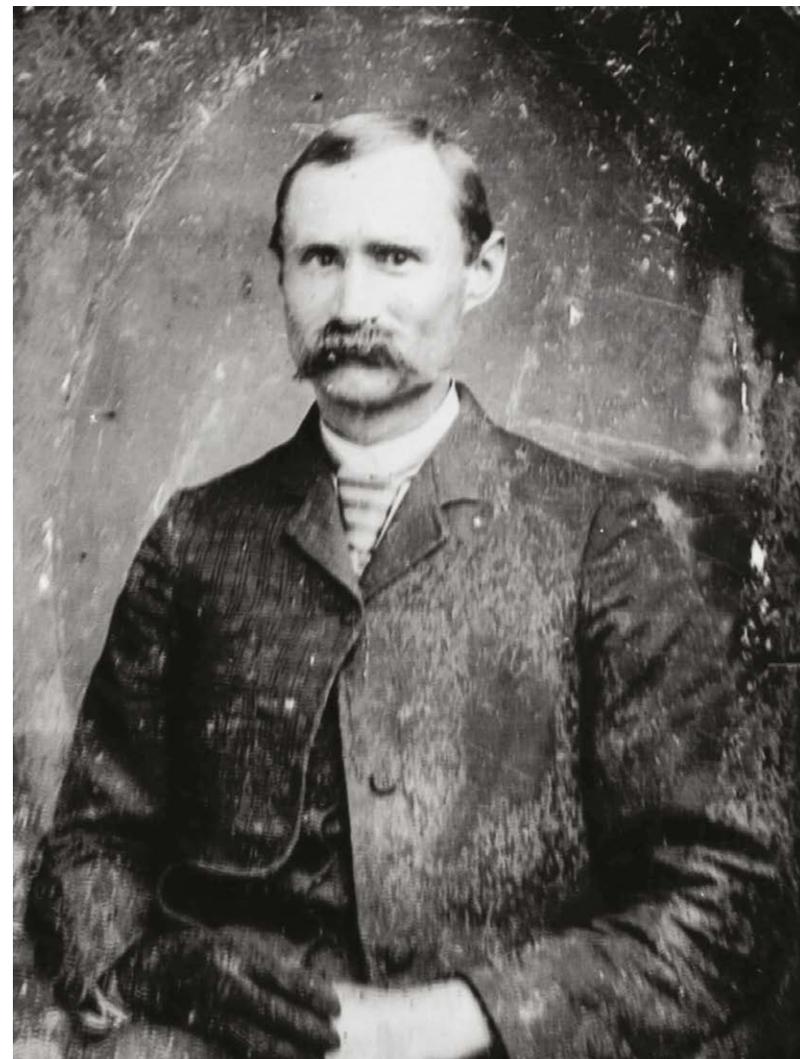
**Bell Plantation** actually started in Scotland almost 1,000 years ago. The Bells were part of the McMillan Clan and fought with William Wallace at the Battle of Stirling in 1297. Five hundred years later, the English exiled the Scottish Highlanders to America, and the Bells were with them. They first came to North Carolina, and later to Georgia.

**Hugh Bell** was the son of Revolutionary War veteran John Bell. Hugh married Rebecca Viggra when she was 15 years old, and she birthed her first child at age 16 in 1805. In 1825, Hugh and Rebecca brought their family from Evans, GA, and they bought their first tract of land on Pachitla Creek in 1826. The Bells had their 17<sup>th</sup> child, Andrew Jackson Bell, in 1841 when Rebecca was 52 years old.

**“Jack” Bell** was among the first from Calhoun County to enlist in the Confederate Army, joining the 12<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry in June 1861. Of 300 men that served in the Calhoun Rifles, Jack was one of only 9 men surviving to surrender at Appomattox.

After the war, as well as being a planter and landowner, Jack owned various agribusiness interests including a cotton gin, the Bell grist mill, and a mercantile store. Jack made investments in land with his first purchase in 1868. In 1871, he purchased the land where the present-day Bell Plantation headquarters is located. In total, he

Andrew Jackson Bell



owned almost 10,000 acres. During this year, he also married Lucretia Little. They lost all of their sons, but three daughters survived to adulthood. Eva Mae Bell married John Warren Andrews in the 1880s and they farmed near Jack's home.

**Donnie Andrews** was their daughter. She married Olan Sanders from Carnegie, GA. They moved to Edison, raising three children, including Don Sanders.

**Olan Sanders** was successful in agribusiness, building on the land-management traditions of his father - Oscar Sanders - and his wife's family. In the early 1900s, Olan and Donnie owned a general store and shingle mill at the Turman crossroads. Olan farmed much of the same ground as Jack Bell had, raising peanuts, corn, and wheat. He was a champion cattleman, favoring the Black Angus breed.

**Row crops** were the mainstay of agriculture on Bell Plantation until the 1970s. But changes in agriculture and a new generation of stewardship were about to shift the property in another direction.

**Timber management** came to Bell Plantation in 1972 when Don Sanders planted the first managed pine timber on the property and that is now being managed for pine pulpwood, saw-lumber, and pole production. The Bell property has been recognized for stewardship in land management and silviculture.

Olan Sanders



Donnie Andrews

**Hunting** has long been a tradition for the Bells. In the 1960s and '70s, dove abounded in the area, in the 1980s and '90s, the deer population rose, and many champion deer have been harvested from the property. Later, the maturity of the timber tracts gave rise to hunting for bobwhite quail.

**Special events** for church, civic, and business groups have been hosted at the property. Bell Plantation supports our nation's military through the Purple Heart Outdoor Tour and other events. We are also pleased to honor those serving in the law enforcement community. The Military & Police Appreciation Day is also a highlight of activities at the property.

**The Bells** don't own Bell Plantation. It owns us - we are simply the stewards of this great place. We are pleased to share it with you and hope that you will be blessed by your time here. Come and be with us again in the future.



# M&P APPRECIATION DAY

The Bells believe that the Scripture speaks truth when it says, “He that is greatest among you is the servant of all.” We thank our military service members and our country’s law enforcement officers for their service of defending our freedom and providing our safety. We are so very pleased to honor those remarkable people by hosting them and their families to the Bell Plantation M&P Appreciation Day.

## Volunteers

The Bells have been doing this for years. It is just a great thing, and we love it. We could not do this

without the help of an indispensable group of exceptional friends. Many of these are veterans. All of them are patriots who love our country and love those who serve. We are pleased to team up to give our active duty, veteran guests, and their families a special day. We want to recognize them for the hard work that they are called to do. The people of this country applaud and admire them for their service and sacrifice. So, we have an outstanding day planned for each participant that we hope they will long remember.

Veterans firing M1 Carbine and M1A Rifle



## Active Duty and Veterans

Our active duty participants stand on the shoulders of brave ones who have gone before them. We are very pleased to host and recognize these heroic men and women, many of whom have been decorated for their valor and sacrifice on the field of battle. We have been hosting these events for so long that some of our past veteran guests have now passed away. We are pleased to recognize them by naming our shooting ranges in their honor.

## The Event

We are going to recognize those who are serving and who have served. Our active duty participants will be competing on the ranges with rifles, pistols, and shotguns. The veterans can pitch in on the shooting and show them how it is really done! We will have an impressive display of historic military weapons. All will enjoy good fellowship and fine food. It is going to be a memorable day for us to be together.



# HURRICANE MICHAEL

In the fall of 2018, Bell Plantation was looking forward to celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Military and Police Appreciation Day. An extensive amount of work and planning had gone into making this the biggest and best event yet. It was scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Disaster

Then on October 10<sup>th</sup>, disaster struck. In a catastrophic event, Hurricane Michael swept across Northwest Florida and Southwest Georgia, with 140+MPH winds that were unprecedented. Never in recorded history had a Category 4 hurricane carried such force so far inland. Unfortunately, Bell Plantation was right in the path of this cataclysm. The M&P Appreciation Day was canceled, and a long and difficult process of recovery began. Entire tracts of mature timber were wiped out, some of which were unsalvageable. Almost all the timber tracts on the property were impacted, most in a dramatic fashion. The work to clean up what Michael did in hours will take years to come.

## Recovery

In the reforestation after the storm, the Bell Plantation team is implementing the latest in forest genetics. Recent advances have made it possible to clone pine trees. This allows for tree seedlings to be mass produced from cell mitosis, rather than needing to be grown from seed. The result will be trees that will come to harvest many

years sooner than what had been the case, even a few years ago. All this adds up to a quicker recovery from the disaster of Hurricane Michael.

## Going Forward

Bell Plantation has been noted for its efforts and innovation in disaster recovery, including being featured in the July 2019 issue of *Georgia Trend* magazine. The process of salvage, clean-up, and reforestation is difficult and expensive. However, we are resilient and will improve the land. Our commitment to persistence is just the Bell way of doing things.

Loblolly Pine



# Thank you for your service

It is our prayer that you will be blessed by your time here at Bell Plantation. We are so pleased to have you here. Thank you very much for being with us. This really is a special place where you can find a quiet refuge from a busy world.

Come here – again and again – to rest, to enjoy the outdoors, to shoot, to hunt, to fish, and to connect with a life that is lived at a slower pace.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH



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