

# THE LINK

Fall 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION

Editor—Larry Luessen

<http://wintergreenmha.org>

*Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting  
and autumn a mosaic of them all.  
- Stanley Horowitz*

## **TOUGH MUDDER IS COMING! OCTOBER 22-23, 2011**

On September 4, 2011 Jay Roberts, Vice President, Resort Operations, made a presentation at the MHA Annual Meeting concerning *Tough Mudder* weekend scheduled for October 22-23, 2011. The following is a summary of that presentation.

**What is *Tough Mudder*?** According to Wikipedia: Tough Mudder is a series of obstacle course competitions that bill themselves as “probably the toughest one day event on the planet”. Tough Mudder is marketed more as an event than a race, and they encourage teamwork and helping other “mudders” over difficult obstacles. The prize is a sweatband and a beer. Contestants are not timed, because the object is to finish and help other “mudders”, not to win. They are the first event ever to get an A+ review from the site Travlete.com.



**Who are these Mudders?** Their average age is 30, 20% are women, and average income is \$70,000. There are 9,000 participants registered for Saturday (sold out). Even accounting for 15% “no shows” that still would leave 7,650 participants. There are 7,000 estimated participants for Sunday, with 2000-3000 spectators each day. Lodging is sold out and they’ll be 1000 cars parked on the mountain and 4000 parked in the Beech Grove area.

**What will be the impact on Wintergreen Homeowners?** Expect some traffic delays at 3 road crossings: (1) intersection of Blue Ridge Drive and Wintergreen Drive, (2) crossing Wintergreen Drive at Ruff Run, (3) crossing Blue Ridge Drive at High Ridge Condos. Traffic on 664 and Wintergreen Drive will cause delays in getting to and from the mountain (7 am to 7 pm) both days. The Gate House plans to limit traffic to homeowners, Tough Mudder buses, property owner guests, and registered resort guests. Residents should plan for this disruption and limit their vehicle use.

**What about mountain top parking?** Cars will begin to arrive before 7 am. There will be approximately 1400 parking spaces available, with 900 of those spaces for Tough Mudders. Tough Mudder will assign the first 3 starting groups mountain parking; all others will be assigned parking in Beech Grove. 900 spaces should accommodate approximately 2500 participants and spectators. Of the 500 mountain spaces held back, 250 will be for Associates and 250 for overflow.

**What are the challenges?** There will be a large amount people, cars, and buses as well as significant vehicle traffic to and from the Beech Grove parking areas, through the gate House, and along Wintergreen Drive. This means lots of work for both WPI and WPOA in planning and executing this event and a long work day for associates.



**What are some myths about Tough Mudder weekend?** This is Woodstock revisited with drug-induced naked youth running around everywhere (not true). Homeowners will be trapped and unable to leave or use restaurants (not true). Tough Mudder brings a group of people likely to cause disorder (not true). We are going to destroy the Devils Knob golf course (not true).

**What about post-event recovery?** Tough Mudder will reimburse WPI and WPOA for all expenses including any repairs to turf, facility damage due to mud, and obstacle removal.

**What are the bottom-line benefits** This is a great community event with significant revenue opportunities for WPI and others within our community (lodging, dining, and shopping). It’s also great community exposure to a demographic that fits Wintergreen. Accommodations are sold out during a period when we are normally less than 50% full. Tough Mudder donates part of their revenues to the Wounded Warrior Project (more than \$1.9 million so far). Wintergreen also receives a site fee from Tough Mudder for hosting this event.

According to Jay Roberts, updated information will be passed along in the next few weeks via e-mail notification and through the members’ web site. In the meantime, please continue to check [www.toughmudder.com](http://www.toughmudder.com) for updated information and the exact Wintergreen Tough Mudder course description and location.

**2012 MHA BOARD**

<u>Tom Steele (2012)</u> President	325-1092 twstee@aol.com
<u>Dennis Casey (2012)</u> Vice-President, Membership Chair	325-7294 dcasey51@verizon.net
<u>Ardin Goss (2014)</u> Secretary	325-7950 tduck@hotmail.com
<u>Camille Kurtz (2014)</u> Treasurer	325-7276 ckurtz@erols.com
<u>Larry Luessen (2012)</u> LINK Editor	325-7864 lluessen@verizon.net
<u>Millie Steele (2012)</u> Social Events	325-1092 millstee@aol.com
<u>Curtis Mclver (2014)</u> Member	325-2095 curtismciver@verizon.net
<u>Susan Mclver (2014)</u> Member	325-2095 susanbmciver@verizon.net

*The incoming and remaining MHA Board members would like to sincerely thank our outgoing Board members, especially outgoing President, Horace Brady. Well Done!*

**President's Corner**

HELLO TO ALL AND HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT SUMMER!!

On September 4th, the MHA held it's annual meeting at the Skyline Pavilion with over 120 members and mountain property owners in attendance. At the meeting, four new board members were elected: Curtis and Susan Mclver, Camille Kurtz and Ardin Goss. The resort gave a presentation on the upcoming Tough Mudder event to be held on October 22-23 on the mountain. The Resort is expecting a lot of participants and large crowds to watch this initial event.

This will be my last letter because my term as President ends this year. I have enjoyed my tenure as your President and thanks to all the Board members who have worked so hard on making MHA what it is today. Especially a big thanks to Millie Steele and all her hosts and helpers for coordinating all the highly successful parties. Thanks to Marti Szczur for being our Link editor for the prior years, as well as to Larry Luessen for doing a superb job. Additional thanks to Tom Steele, Janelle Carroll and Steve Marianella for putting together the new MHA and WVA 2011 telephone directory. As treasurer thank you Allan Blum for keeping us afloat and in good financial shape. My last big thank you goes to Dennis Casey for being our Membership Chair. Our membership data base has never been so well maintained.

The new board officers will be announced and published after our Board meeting on September 27th, 2011. During the transition I will still be around to answer any questions, etc.

Finally, please kindly consider hosting and/or helping on a party because it really does not take much time and the party is free for you.

Horace Brady  
Outgoing President, MHA

**Join these Mountain Activities ...**

**Mountain Women:** Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at 10:00 am. Roadrunners are welcome! Contact: Martha Misker at 325-7585.

**Mountain Women Gardeners:** Meet every third Friday at various member's homes. Contact: Jill Toop at 325-9082.

**Mountain Women Book Group:** Meets the Monday after the Mountain Women meeting. Contact: Barbara Porter at 325-7314.

**Mountain Women Craft Group:** Meets on the 4th Friday of each month. Contact: Sarah Scott at 325-7375.

**Mountain Women Epicurious Group:** Meets on the second Thursday of every other (even) month. Contact Sylvia Stafford at 325-1439 or 410-268-1681.

**Book Clubs:** Two book clubs meet each month on Tues evenings. Contacts: Arlo Croxall at 361-0045 or Elaine Davis at 361-1936.

**Mahjong:** Meets Mondays at 10:00 am. Contact: Susan Capell at 361-2435.

**Saturday Evening Bridge:** Meets the second or third Saturday of the month, at 7:30 pm. Contact: Kate McIntire at 325-7073.

**Editor's Note**

*Welcome to the Fall Edition of The LINK!*

*Fall on the mountain is crisp clear days, cool and sometimes frosty nights, an abundance of color from the changing leaves — and this year a visit by the Tough Mudders!*

*But fear not, fellow mountain homesteaders, it's only for 2 days (October 22-23) and the Resort, hopefully, will have everything under control. For more information and assurances see the enclosed article by Jay Roberts (front page), our VP of Resort Operations., and one by Chief Stan Olah (page 5), Wintergreen Police Department.*

*See you 'round the mountain!*

**“Fall Backward”**  
**Daylight Saving Time ends at**  
**2 am**  
**Sunday, November 6, 2011.**

Come dance, play, trick or treat!  
Support the Nelson County Community  
Fund at its Sixth Opportunity Ball.

**Costume Contests** **LIVE MUSIC**

**Five-Course Gourmet Dinner  
paired with Wine**

**PHOTO BOOTH** **Twist Dance Contest**

**WHEN**

10/29/2011 at 6:00 pm

**WHERE**

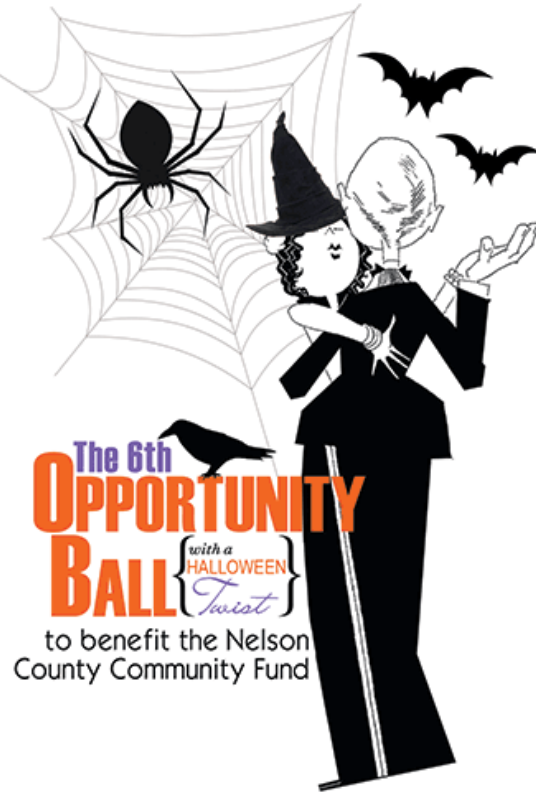
Veritas Vineyard & Winery

**DRESS**

Your Halloween Best or Black Tie Optional

**WHY**

Support the Nelson County Community Fund



Come dine, dance and trick or treat! Enjoy a five-course dinner paired with wine at Veritas Vineyard and Winery. Dress in your Halloween best and get your picture taken in a photo booth (accessories will be available!). Dance the night away to the live rocking blues music of Class Act. Win prizes in the twist and costume contests. Join in the fun with silent and live auctions for lots of great experiences, including cruises and wine dinners. All proceeds benefit the Nelson County Community Fund, granting funds to over 40 nonprofits in Nelson County to help our neighbors in need.

**Your Halloween Best or Black Tie Optional. Tickets are \$125/person. [Click Here to Make Reservations](#) or call Molly at 540-456-8000 ext. 108.**

The [Nelson County Community Fund](#) is a committee-advised fund in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation created for the express purpose of providing the most basic human services for our neighbors in need. The NCCF is made up of local volunteers who generate and distribute grant funds for approximately 24 charitable groups in the County.

The Opportunity Ball is the culmination of a fundraising campaign in which individuals and corporations have taken the opportunity to make a charitable contribution on their community. Their fundraising helps to address the need for medical and dental care, improved housing, childcare, even food for our neighbors in Nelson County. All of the funds raised through sponsorships, auctions, and donations are used solely to benefit Nelson County through grants.

**Halloween's** roots can be traced back to Celtic culture in Ireland. According to their "Druid" religion, November 1st was New Years' on their calendar. The celebration would begin on October 31st, and last into the following day. The spirits of all who died in the prior year would rise up and roam the earth on this night.

This was an evil night when spirits roamed the streets and villages and Lord Samhain, the lord of Darkness, would arrive in search of the spirits to take them to the underworld.

## Joy to Have Lived It

by Joan Stemmler

My husband, Ed, usually says he likes my writings. He might suggest a few grammatical points to think about or clarifications. But neither of us liked my last two tries at writing this column. The results were too preachy, too negative. I recognized that I was mired in a kind of sad nostalgia for things that were and have changed. Of having to say good-bye to them. After twenty years in this enclave, semi-protected from the realities of changing environment, things are different. And I have a lot of myself invested in these mountains and the people I've met. I decided to approach my feeling in a different way.

So here in Charlottesville this night, I came out on the patio in front of our condo with my pad and pen. We're spending a good bit of time here now what with doctor appointments, cultural activities, restaurants we like and people we enjoy meeting or seeing. This place is an interim stop on our way back to Pennsylvania to our chosen retirement community. But we've enjoyed it.

I sit on this patio in the darkness. My "Pam's geraniums" are by my side, still blooming generously. My plot in the condo garden is filled with masses of zinnias. This afternoon, Ed and I watched a mockingbird eating the ripe berries from the serviceberry trees growing between our patio and the sidewalk. The bird paused to listen to the mountain bird song whistles, wondering where they were coming from. It was me, talking to him, not knowing what I was saying. Now I hear night songs: peepers, crickets, katydids. I almost feel in my body the deep boom of a rock band from a car radio. I see lightning bugs but no stars on this cloudy muggy night. Lights around the condo illuminate the well kept lawn, the ornamental grasses. Those are the sights and sounds. What else? The sense of smell. Nothing particular to notice. But this thought recalls the distinctive nature of mountain air, fresh washed and lichen clear, scented now in autumn by traces of wood-smoke. The touch of the air on my skin reminds of the other senses, the feel of my familiar pen in my hand, a pad on my knee. Taste on my tongue of the meal I enjoyed at Tavola just a walk up the street. A resident walks by with her dog and I call "hi" into the darkness. I hear little kids now, whooping outside in someone's yard, playing. Different from Wintergreen, livelier and more in contact with a wider world.

If one really tries to live so that one encompasses and remembers moments one finds that time seems longer. I almost require from myself something material, like a story or a drawing, to mark a passing of time. Photos recall also, but not in the sense I mean. This patio moment will perhaps become nostalgic for me someday. But the nostalgia can be glad. For instance, what a gift it has been to remember walking on Wintergreen roads when we first came here. They were lined with wildflowers, all kinds of asters, goldenrods, fruiting trees providing nuts and berries to our animals and birds, beauty to our eyes. The perennial appearance of a Carolina rose bush, blackberries for the picking, a red Canada lily on Shamokin Springs Drive was a yearly surprise. I heard, in the spring, veerys, thrushes, flickers, grosbeaks, scarlet tanagers. A pair of resident wood-cocks lived in the wooded lots on our street; the male made his mad courting flight and fall, calling all the way. Wild turkey chicks walked across the road, and quail as well. That wildness is gone now. The joy is that I have lived it, remember it, because I noticed it when it happened.

Change is inevitable. Roads to be improved. Lots to be sold and developed. People to come.



Luckily, at Wintergreen, this wildness is still here. Crawford's Knob and the George Washington National Forest are in conservation thanks to the vision of many individuals and hard workers who saved them. Some home-owners at Wintergreen still maintain their lots free of invasive plants and preserve native flowers and shrubs to keep an intact forest floor, a habitat for animals, a tree canopy to protect the earth from erosion. Natural beauty is a wonderful return for a little loving care and attentiveness to some essentials of life.

**"It's a Wonderful Life"** movie trivia (see answers on page 10):

1. "Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" Who said this?
2. What is the name of the city where this story takes place?
3. Which president's picture hangs in George Bailey's living room after the money was lost?
4. What is the name of the book that Clarence is reading in the beginning of the movie?
5. What does George pile high on Mary's sundae even though she says she doesn't like it?
6. What does it mean when a bell rings?

Merry Christmas, George.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON AND AROUND THE MOUNTAIN?

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR AND NEXT!



#### 2011 Mountain Homesteaders Activities

November 5 — Annual WVA/MHA Harvest Dinner Dance

#### 2012 Mountain Homesteaders Activities

February 4 — Red Party

March 17 — St Patty's Party

April 28 — Spring Garden Party

June 9 — Shrimp Fest

August 19 — Pork & Boots Party

September 2 — MHA Annual Meeting

September 15 — Lobster Feast

Note: Details about events will be sent by email, be available on website, and posted at Mailbox Kiosk.



#### SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21 2012**

Wintergreen Performing Arts  
Spring Gala & Fundraiser

#### Casablanca:

#### Where Rick's Café Awaits You

Everyone come join us at Rick's Café Américain for dining, dancing, and intrigue.

*"I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."*

#### Annual WVA/MHA Harvest Dinner Dance



Saturday, November 5, 2011, 6 PM  
Wintergreen Skyline Pavilion

Featuring (again) **The Collegians**



This was a "blast" last year with *The Collegians* playing hits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Contact Carol Dworin (361-2663, [cgdworin@hotmail.com](mailto:cgdworin@hotmail.com)) or Ardin Goss (325-7950, [tcduck@hotmail.com](mailto:tcduck@hotmail.com)) for more information. The "coolest" thing this side of my blue heaven!



#### WPI and WPOA ANNUAL MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendars for the WPOA and WPI Annual Meetings:

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm — WPOA Annual Meeting**, Skyline Room

**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm — WPI Annual Meeting**, Skyline Room

**4:30 pm - 6:30 pm — WPI Annual Reception & Kids' Party**

Pryors Porch & Discovery Ridge Adventure Center

#### LOVERS OF ART



I am trying to form a Wintergreen Visual Arts Club (painting and sculpture) for property owners in Stoney Creek and on the Mountain. An appreciation and learning experience for these arts is a primary goal. This is not meant to be a club for artists but for people who enjoy the work artists can do. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Please contact: **Allan Blum, 325-9133, [allan\\_blum@yahoo.com](mailto:allan_blum@yahoo.com)**.

#### ANNUAL DUES REMINDER!

Use the form on the back page to send in with your dues. Whether joining or renewing choose the one-year or two-year membership option. Also, please use this form to update any name/address information, particularly email addresses, so we can keep you posted on mountain news. Renewals are due by **February 1**. Thanks.



# Onward and Upward!

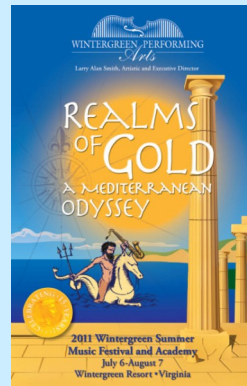
by Larry Alan Smith, WPA's Artistic and Executive Director

Some of you are smiling . . . *I can see you* . . . and I certainly know why you are smiling! You've heard me say it . . . you've seen me write it . . . **Onward and Upward** . . . now there's a concept! It is, in fact, the story of WPA's history, and it signifies the sort of "can do" attitude that has allowed us to grow from a small, local arts council to an organization that now presents a nationally recognized major arts festival every summer. We still have a long way to go, but having just mounted a very successful 15<sup>th</sup> Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy, we can pause (*but only briefly!*) and reflect on what has been accomplished.



Wintergreen Summer Music Festival  
July 3-20, 1997

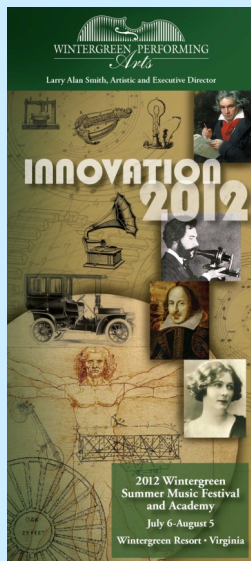
1997 WSMF (No. 1)



2011 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy  
July 6-August 7  
Wintergreen Resort • Virginia

2011 WSMF (No. 15)

How did it happen? Founder Sarah McCracken had the vision and the energy, but everyone who understood her vision and supported it deserves credit as well. As the years went by, new people came to Wintergreen, and these new people brought their own enthusiasm and their own ideas. It is remarkable that the cycle continues to this day, and we are all beneficiaries of a collective excitement that builds from the moment that the ticket booklet arrives in the mail right through to the last bow of the final performance in August. Even then, folks have already started planning vacations so as to be available for the next Festival. It is pretty amazing! By the way, have you marked your calendars? The **2012 Festival** will begin on **Friday, July 6**, and it will end on **Sunday, August 5**. *Just thought I'd mention that!*



2012 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy  
July 6-August 5  
Wintergreen Resort • Virginia

OK . . . back to work! **Onward** . . . toward 2012 and everything that WPA is hoping to accomplish during the coming year. **Upward** . . . as we move toward our long-term goals, including a structure to replace our very tired (and well-watered!!!) tent. We have Events Fair Activities that extend until May 2012, including **Improv Night** on Saturday, October 15; **Wintergreen is Going to the Dogs** on Sunday, November 6, and **Your Table is Ready: A Display of Festive Table Décor** on Sunday, December 4. Once again, we will present **A Blue Ridge Christmas: The Virginia Consort** on Sunday, December 11, and there is going to be an exceptional **Annual Spring Gala** on Saturday, April 21. Stay tuned for details . . .

Thank you for everything you do to support Wintergreen Performing Arts. For information about WPA, please phone (434) 325-8292 or visit [www.wintergreenperformingarts.org](http://www.wintergreenperformingarts.org).

## **THE TOUGH MUDDER RACE ROAD CROSSINGS AND TRAFFIC CONTROLS**

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

*by Chief Stan Olah, Wintergreen Police Department*



The Tough Mudder — what an exciting event to be hosted by **Wintergreen Resort**. This event certainly offers free advertising opportunities for the resort with expected participation to be upwards of 15,000+ people for the two-day weekend event. Rental units maxed out for two days, parking lots at capacity, live music and food, all bringing in revenue for both owners and the resort. Sounds good. It is going to be like the best ski season weekend ever, but with significantly more traffic congestion.

Parking and traffic control will be a challenge due to unusual demands of the race event. The race is a nine-mile-long event with 9000 runners starting the first day and 7000 the second day. They start at 8:00 a.m. in groups of 500 each and continue every 20 minutes, lasting until about 2:00 p.m. with the race ending around 5:00 p.m.

The race will cross the roadways in the community at four different designated areas which will take place at and above Blue Ridge Drive and Wintergreen Drive. The police department will be handling traffic control at each location. While all attempts will be made to not disrupt traffic flow in these areas, you must be prepared to expect delays and possible detours for your travels. Please plan ahead and leave early if you need to drive somewhere on these two days.

Due to the large number of participants most will be parked off the mountain. There will be 60 to 70 buses transporting participants to and from the designated parking areas off Route 664/151 to the Mountain Inn area for drop-off. These buses will be operating from 5:00 a.m. to around 8:00 p.m. daily on Wintergreen Drive, Route 664 and Route 151 so expect delays there as well. The first 3 start groups are parking on the mountain so buses are more likely to start operating continually after 7 a.m. with only a few before this time.



Planning and patience will be the keys to a successful race and an enjoyable weekend to be had by all during this event. Rest assured the Wintergreen Property Owners Association will be doing everything possible to make this a safe, successful and enjoyable event and weekend for everyone involved.

### **Wintergreen Club Championship**



Sixty-six members and Hurricane Irene teed it up for bragging rights in this year's Men's Club Championship! Steve Marianella won the Wintergreen Golf Club Championship over Greg Robertson.

Other men's results: Net, Allen Bennett over Don Young. In the Senior Division, Jim Westfall Champion over Bill Schivley; Net, Mike Akin over Don Klingemann. In the Super Senior Division, Bill McIntyre Champion over Ed Gilbert; Net, Bruce Bach over Ed Camden.

The Women's Division had 16 women competing for the two titles in the Gross and Net divisions. Joyce McComb won the crown over Lori Young in the Gross Division. Suzi Wisler won first place in the Net Division over Becky Dye.



### **BEAR SMART Program Update**

*by Al Crannis*

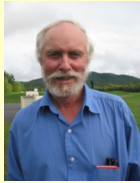


Program Update—Only minor incidents have been reported to police since our last report. There have been two incidents of home entry—neither causing any major damage. No car entry incidents have been reported, but there have been numerous sightings of bears. The low incident rate is most likely the result of all homeowners and condo owners following the no feeding directive. Please keep it up—remember, no bird feeding until December 1, and please report all sightings to the police at the front gate.

The Wintergreen Bear Smart Program was featured in the National Humane Society All Animals Magazine for September/October (<http://www.humanesociety.org/news/magazines/2011/09-10/>).

## ROADRUNNERS

Doug Coleman – Biologist/Executive Director  
***Connecting with and Protecting our Ecosystems***  
 by Sylvia Shenk



If you want to inform yourself of all that is being done to understand and protect the ecological systems that surround us at Wintergreen, spend a few minutes talking with the TWNF's Biologist and Executive Director, Doug Coleman. Your head will be swimming with the endless possibilities and the amount of work to be done. Perhaps this column should be entitled *Trail Trackers* or *Mountain Movers* instead of *Roadrunners* for this issue and a few minutes with Doug might not suffice.

Doug began our conversation outlining the major points to be discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Science Committee on September 24, 2011. This committee involves itself in the difficult task of managing our forests, the 11,000 acres of this strategic region. At this critical meeting, the following research projects were addressed:

- ◇ Archeology – Dr. Carole Nash: Because of the narrowness of the mountains, this is one of the richest sites of the Blue Ridge. Dr. Nash's archeological models, covering a period of 7-8 years of study, include proximity to springs, exposure to sunlight, location of the American chestnut, and where it existed previous to its elimination.
- ◇ Non-woody Plants - Dr. Janet Steven from Sweet Briar College and Dr. Zoe Smith, post-doctoral fellow from Australia: Isolation of DNA markers on Wintergreen's ancient fern beds will likely show that they are older than the oldest trees on the mountain.
- ◇ Smithsonian Environmental Research Center at Edgewater – Dr. Dennis Whigham: An update was presented in regard to the collaborative work that TWNF is doing with the Smithsonian on native terrestrial orchids. The intent of this work is to isolate and better understand the species of fungi that reside in their root cells in an effort to better comprehend the ecology of orchids.
- ◇ Native Plant Propagation: TWNF is working with 20 species of native shrubs in an effort to attract native insect pollinators and birds. Herein lies great potential to repair and restore the natural ecosystems of this rich environment.
- ◇ Whitetail Deer Management: Collaboration between TWNF and WPOA has resulted in one of the most successful whitetail deer management programs in the Commonwealth.
- ◇ Tracking Gypsy Moth Population: After the last 10 years of research and management of gypsy moth in Wintergreen's forests, predictable patterns are emerging that can help us better predict and budget intervention needs.

Our Nature Foundation reaches out to children in ever so many ways. They are, in fact, the future guardians of this land. Projected for 2012 is a pilot program to work with high school students who will be attending colleges in the sciences. Funding for this program will be apportioned by two grants: one from the Nelson County Community Foundation and another from the Elaine Salmon Nature Scholarship Fund which has recently been created.

The Wintergreen Nature Foundation has just sent out their Calendar of Events covering October, November and December (see page opposite). It is filled with exciting opportunities for hikers, naturalists, epicureans, and historians. This includes the *Endangered Cloud Forests of Panama* (10/7), *Appomattox Surrender* (10/19), *Native Cultures* (11/26), and Lynn Coffey's "Faces of Appalachia" (12/10) to name just a few. This is an awesome time to be taking advantage of the hues of color on our mountain and the seasonal events of the Fall Festival with its October 15 *Pumpkin Party* event for children. The Nature Foundation Holiday Shop opens on November 25th. In our Thanksgiving celebrations, we certainly want to keep the peaceful splendor of Wintergreen high on our list of thanks.

To further understand this extensive effort in managing and protecting our rich environment, one must also view the *Connecting with the Land Exhibit* at Trillium House. This includes sections on Native American history, European contacts, and the cultural history of Nelson County.

One might ask, *What does Doug have in mind next???* Much of course. He also envisions the completion of a book on the History of Wintergreen in about a year and a half. You will certainly want to get on the list early to obtain one, I do suppose. And please don't forget the *March Sugar Maple Festival* during the week of March 5-10, 2012. Did you realize how many sugar maples we have at Wintergreen just waiting to be tapped? Vermont, are you ready for some competition on your syrup production?



### Join the Wintergreen Nature Foundation for its Second Annual Décor & More



Friday, November 11, 1:00 to 5:00  
 Saturday, November 12, 9:00 to 5:00  
 Sunday, November 13, 9:00 to 1:00  
 In the lobby of the Mountain Inn



There will be a variety of beautiful wreaths, small trees and centerpieces for your autumn and winter decorating needs. In addition, we'll have lots of gift ideas. Simplify your holidays and support the educational programs and research projects of The Wintergreen Nature Foundation. For more information, call Barbara Marker at 434-325-7339.

### Lynn Coffey's "Faces of Appalachia"



Join the Wintergreen Nature Foundation as they host an evening with local author, Lynn Coffey, on **Saturday, December 10, from 4:00 to 6:00PM at the Trillium House**. Lynn is the author of the Backroads books and will share mountain lore and humor, as well as some history of our area, before there was a Wintergreen. She will be previewing and signing her third book in the series, Faces of Appalachia. Lynn is an absolute delight and not to be missed! We will have refreshments and some Old Time Music to round out the evening. \$15 for TWNF members and \$18 for nonmembers.

### Wintergreen Nature Foundation Calendar of Events

#### October 2011

October 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, 10am-noon, Mornings in the Mountain

October 7, 6:30 pm, *Panama's Peril and Preservation*: Buteo Books and The Wintergreen Nature Foundation co-sponsor an evening with Guido Berguido, a Panamanian naturalist and owner of Advantage Tours.

October 15, 10am-2pm, Pumpkin Party.

October 19, 10 am, Appomattox Surrender: Join retired coach, teacher and historian Len Diloia for a day at Appomattox and relive the event with his commentary and site staff's graphic description of this poignant event in Virginia's history.

#### November 2011

November 5, 12, 19, 26, 10am-noon, Mornings in the Mountain.

November 2, 9am-5pm, Doyles River-Jones Run Hike: Join TWNF as we traverse one of the premier landscapes in the Shenandoah National Park.

November 11, 6 pm, The "Big Year" of Birding Dinner Theater: Meet Dr. John Sphar as he presents his "Big Year" of birding. Dr. Sphar, an Augusta Bird Club member, spent a year traveling to various North American locations identifying as many birds as possible by sight and sound.

November 12, Annual Meeting: Join us for The Wintergreen Nature Foundation's Annual Meeting Presentation. This will be held in conjunction with the WPOA and WPI annual meetings.

November 26, 1-3 pm, Native Cultures: Explore the Wintergreen the Native Americans knew well before Pilgrims and pioneers.

#### December 2011

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10am-noon, Morning in the Mountains

December 4, 1 pm, Point of Honor: Kick off the holiday season, 1815-style, with a trip along historic bricked streets to Dr. George Cabell's Lynchburg home, Point of Honor. The house is decorated with native greens and a yule log, and period music and refreshments await.

December 10, 4-6 pm, Lynn Coffey's "Faces of Appalachia": Join us for refreshments and old time music as local author, Lynn Coffey, shares mountain lore, humor, and history.

December 27 to January 1, Holiday Week Programs: Watch our website, [www.twnf.org](http://www.twnf.org), and "This Week at Wintergreen" for details about our exciting holiday week programs.

#### January 2012

January 1, 2012, Humpback Rocks: Chip Morgan continues the New Year's tradition of a hike at Humpback Rocks.

## ROCKFISH VALLEY FOUNDATION FALL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

**Rockfish Valley Foundation Star Watch, October 29 at 7 pm.** Big field on Glenthorne LOOP 1/4-mile east of intersection of RT 151 and RT 627. Discussion of star watching and equipment. David Miller and John Avalone, members of the Charlottesville Astronomical Society, will direct and have telescopes for viewing. Without the Moon, we will have the deep -sky objects of the Milky Way and a planet (or two or three...Jupiter + Venus + Mercury). There should also be viewing of some early winter objects (Pleiades, Andromeda Galaxy, etc). For info contact **Rockfish Valley Foundation at [info@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:info@rockfishvalley.org). or 434 226 0446.**

### ONGOING

**Nelson Scenic Loop**, a 50-mile drive on 4 scenic Byways around the Rockfish Valley, Blue Ridge Parkway and Tye Rive Valley in Nelson County. Many spurs lead to hiking , biking, birding and general recreation. Design your own tour; learn about surrounding attractions and the natural, historic and cultural resources of beautiful Nelson County ([www.nelsonscenicloop.com](http://www.nelsonscenicloop.com)).

**Spruce Creek Park**, located on Glenthorne Loop just east of RT 151 at Wintergreen. This beautifully landscaped park which connects to the Rockfish Valley Trail system has picnic tables and horseshoes. It is available for public events. The headquarters of the Rockfish Valley Foundation with informational kiosks is located there. Also there is public WiFi at the historic Wintergreen Country Store building and a public broadcast weather station at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com) under zip code 22958.

## ROCKFISH VALLEY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES ONE-OF-A-KIND GEOLOGY TRAIL WITH A FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Rocks are books waiting to be opened to tell their story. The Rockfish Valley Foundation (RVF) will present a program on the geology of the Rockfish Valley and a dedication of the Foundation's trail along the Rockfish River on Sunday, September 18 at 2 p.m. The program will be held at the Spruce Creek Gallery with dedication along the Rockfish River and reception to follow. Spruce Creek Gallery is located in the historic Wintergreen Country Store at 1368 Rockfish Valley Highway, Nellysford, VA 22958.

Lynn S. Fichter, professor of geology and environmental science at James Madison University has greatly assisted in development of Rockfish Valley geology map, storyboard and points of interest brochure. He will talk about local geology including the Rockfish Valley fault and the plate tectonics that shaped our surroundings. The Rockfish Valley sits at the center of some of the most profound geology to be found anywhere in the world. Dr. Fichter's talk will explain why.

Eric Pyle, professor of geology & environmental science at James Madison University is the trail project sponsor and field geologist. He will talk about our local rocks and demonstrate rock identification and sampling.

Connie Brennan, Nelson County Supervisor for the Central District, and Chip Morgan, Rockfish Valley Foundation Trustee, trail guide and Vice President of the Flora of Virginia Project will cut the ribbon to open the trail.

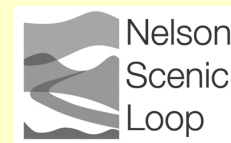
A reception with light refreshments will follow at which the presenters and other honored guests will be available for discussion and to answer questions. A donation to the Rockfish Valley Foundation is encouraged but not required. Please call or email if you would like to attend as space is limited.

The Rockfish Valley Foundation is indebted to the BAMA Works Fund, a component fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation created by contributions of the Dave Matthews Band.

**Contact: Peter Agelasto, [info@rockfishvalley.org](mailto:info@rockfishvalley.org), 434 361 1296**



**Rockfish Valley Foundation**  
*As big as all outdoors*



Answers to "It's a Wonderful Life" movie trivia: 1. Clarence Oddbody, 2. Bedford Falls, 3. Abraham Lincoln, 4. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, 5. Coconut, 6. An angel gets his wings!

**JOIN OR RENEW NOW!**

**2012 WINTERGREEN MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

WTG 911 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ WTG PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME / MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd EMAIL ADDRESS (will also receive MHA LINK and e-announcements): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not include our email in the directory

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional \$10 payment for a paper copy of The LINK to be sent to my postal address

\_\_\_\_\_ If you live at Wintergreen part of the year, but also have another primary mailing address, check here and provide us with a calendar and 2nd address. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

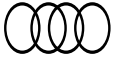
Please complete and return (by **February 1 if renewing**) with:

- a check for \$20 (or \$30 if requesting paper copy of the newsletter) for **one** year, or
- a check for \$40 (or \$60 if requesting paper copy of the newsletter) for **two** years

Mail to: Membership Chair

Wintergreen Mountain Homesteaders Association

Rt. 1, Box 508, Roseland, VA 22967



**THE LINK**



Mountain Homesteaders Assn.  
Route 1, Box 508  
Roseland, VA 22967

