THE LINK

AUG 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION

Editor—Marti Szczur

A Success Story
Thanks to the Wintergreen Nature Foundation's Plant Rescue Program

By Des Gourley

Ten years ago, I read a commentary on Central Virginia's NPR outlet, WVTF-Roanoke, about the luck I had in transplanting a clump of Yellow Lady's Slippers not once, but three times, over a period of 16 years. This is a follow-up which likewise was broadcast to WVTF's 100,000 listeners this year.

The Lady's Slipper is a wild orchid that comes in several varieties. On the mountain at Wintergreen the Yellow and the Pink Lady's Slippers are common.

For many years, The Wintergreen Nature Foundation has had a vigorous program of rescuing plants, including -- but not limited to -- flowering plants, when they are in the pathway of new ski slopes, new condominiums or even the sites of future private homes, with the owners' permission, of course.

Some of the rescued plants have grown on the mountain for hundreds of years and deserve to live on for hundreds more. As a result of this program, hundreds of thousands of plants have been rescued and transplanted to areas similar to their natural habitat for rescue volunteers and visitors to Wintergreen to enjoy.

In my original piece, I described how I had transplanted a small clump of Yellow Lady's Slippers which would be bulldozed into oblivion when construction would soon begin on a row of condominiums next to Diamond Hill ski slope. That was in 1981. I incorporated them into a wildflower garden that my wife was developing on our first mountain property.

Over the next 15 years, my wife and I moved twice from our first property to different locations on the mountain and each time, I re-transplanted the original clump of Yellow Lady's Slippers to our new location. After each transplantation, the plants with their gorgeous little yellow flowers not only lived, they *thrived.* Each year they seemed to produce more blossoming plants than the year before.

Then, last year, only one or two Lady's Slippers plants came up—and even these did not produce blossoms. Of course I was unhappy—I thought that was the end of our small garden of Yellow Lady's Slippers. But I consoled myself by recalling that it was then some 26 years since I had first rescued them, and I had enjoyed them over a considerable period of time. They did not, I rationalized, owe me anything.

This spring, in the middle of May, I was transplanting some rescued wildflowers of a different species in my wife's wildflower garden, when my eye caught sight of two clumps of the original Yellow Lady's Slippers in the spots where I had planted them on their third transplantation. The plants looked healthier than ever before and seven of them were in full bloom!

Maybe it was the plentiful rain we've had on the mountain this spring, or maybe last year — a drought year — they were just having a rest. Lady's Slippers sometimes do that when growing conditions are tough.

Whatever the reason, my wife and I are glad they're back and I just had to share this follow-up with you and at the same time, tip my hat to the Plant Rescue Program of the Wintergreen Nature Foundation. I don't know what the future holds for them but I now believe that my transplanted Lady's Slippers are going to last longer than I will.

This commentary was broadcast by the author on "Morning Edition" on WVTF-Roanoke on 7 July 2008.

The Wintergreen Performing Arts

International Wine Festival

Saturday, August 30, 2008 (Labor Day Weekend)

Noon – 5:30 pm

at the Evans Center

Explore wines from around the world – over 50 wines from Australia, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, California, and, of course, Virginia. Taste, compare, learn and enjoy.

Admission is $20 per person. Admission includes 10 tastings. Additional tastings are 2 for $1. Food will also be available.

A craft fair will be running simultaneously. Music by the JAZZ RASCALS.

YOUR 2008 MHA BOARD

Stu Harvey	President 325-7171 stuartharvey@alum.mit.edu
Horace Brady	VP 325-7930 bradywareagle@aol.com
Ray Allen	Secretary 703-569-3946 325-7834 raygnav@aol.com
Allan Blum	Treasurer 325-9133 allan_blum@yahoo.com
Steve Marianella	Membership 325-2281 smsales1@aol.com
Joanne White	Social Chairman 325-7232 jwhite103@hotmail.com
	Social Committee: Joyce Claman, Horace Brady, Sharon Kincel, Steve Marianella
John Armel	325-6772 jlatwg@aol.com
Mary Ellen Condon Rall	325-7708 condonrall1@verizon.net
Sylvia Shenk	703-759-2434 325-7601 s2shenk@cox.net
Shirley Thomas	434-239-1592 325-9076 stt32ski@aol.com
Marti Szczur	LINK editor 325-7164 szczurmar@aol.com

Join these Mountain Activities ...

Mahjong meets Mondays at 10:00 am. Contact: Susan Capell on 361-2435.

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

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

The Mountain Women Gardeners meet every third Friday at various member's homes. Contact: Vera Jones on 325-9256.

The Mountain Women Book Group meets the Monday after the Mountain Women meeting. Contact: Barbara Porter on 325-7314.

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

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

The Green Winners is an investment club that meets the first Tuesday of each month, in the afternoon. Contact: Diane Crannis on dibooks@aol.com.

President's Corner

As we all know, the main function of the Mountain Homesteaders is the provision of social events to enhance the life of our mountain community. This year, we began the process of "spreading the wealth" and responsibility for these events beyond the social committee. This fosters new ideas and change from a static and predictable format. I would like to continue this process.

If any member is interested in managing one or two social events next year, please contact me; we can coach and help, so you would not be completely on your own. It's more fun than work.

Thanks,
Stu Harvey, President of MHA

REMINDER: To make sure you receive all the MHA communications and avoid being "bounced", put my email (stuartharvey@alum.mit.edu) in your address book, so our messages will not be categorized as spam; secondarily, please let me know if you change your email.

Editor's Note

I'm living in heaven, and I didn't even have to die to get here!

- *Waking in the morning and gazing at the Three Ridges vista—what mood are they in today?*
- *Needing to wear a sweater in mid-July*
- *Having WPA deliver a month-long festival of quality music events, plays, lectures, cooking classes, wine tasting, etc … just minutes from our house*
- *Hiking on mountain trails with delicate wildflowers and commanding vistas*
- *Dog play-time in the evening with friends … of both the four-legged and two-legged variety*

And, the list could go on and on … yes, summer on the mountain is definitely heavenly.

Marti, LINK Editor

2008 Mountain Homesteaders Activities

- ✓ ***Feb 9th — Winter BINGO Party***
- ✓ ***March 15th — St. Patrick's Party***
- ✓ ***April 19th — Newcomers' Party***
- ✓ ***June 7th —Shrimp Fest***
- ✓ ***July 4th — Independence Day Dinner***
- ✓ ***August 9th — Annual Picnic***

Sept. 6th — Lobster Fest

Sept. 27th — Oktoberfest

Dec. 6th — Annual Holiday Gala

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

Please be sure to make your reservations !!!!!

For most events, space is limited, so be sure to make an early reservation.

Make a check (if appropriate) payable to:
Mountain Homesteaders Assoc. (MHA)

RSVP to Horace Brady, RR 1 Box 616, Roseland, VA 22967 or 325-7930 or bradywareagle@aol.com

(Reminder: When RSVPing, include names of attendees (for making name tags), your address and phone #)

Sept. 6th — Lobster Fest (members only, please)

Where: Chestnut Springs **When**: 5:30 pm **How Much**: $30 per person

Menu: Fresh lobster, corn pudding, green salad, & apple crisp.
Wine & Soft Drinks provided

RESERVATION DEADLINE: August 30th

Please note: This is a popular event. Due to facility size, it is limited to the first 80 who send checks to Horace Brady**.** **(**And, alas, because of event's popularity and to be fair to our members, "members only" does not include extended family members.)

Also, please bring your own tools to 'pick & hammer' your Lobster, as MHA does not have any of these tools stockpiled for this once-a-year yummy fest.

Sept. 27th — Oktoberfest (held in conjunction with the WPA Oktoberfest)

Where: Evans Center **When**: 12—1 pm

For Mountain Homesteaders, the food at Oktoberfest is free (included in the dues you have paid). Yeah!

Here's how it works - At the ticket booth, identify yourself as a Homesteader and you will receive a coupon good for a meal plate--a wurst, potato salad, sauerkraut, etc. Turn the coupon in at the food stand as payment. To make it more of a Homesteader get together, food tickets will be given out between 12 and 12:30 -- tables reserved for Homesteaders from 12-1.

Note: Beverages (e.g., Beer, Soft Drinks) can be purchased at event.

Dec 6th — Annual Holiday (members only, please) Details will be in next newsletter.

Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Music Fest on Saturday, August 16

Robin and Linda Williams Return to Wintergreen

With little time to catch our breath after the sensational Summer Music Festival, Wintergreen Performing Arts presents its 3rd Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Music Fest on Saturday, August 16 at the Evans Center. Headlining the festival will be **Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group** (http://www.robinandlinda.com). Robin and Linda delighted the Wintergreen audience in 2005 with their unique blend of bluegrass, folk, old-time and acoustic country that truly merits the title of "American music." The couple, who originally met in 1971, make their home in Middlebrook, Virginia, just over the mountains in the Shenandoah Valley. Their long time association with Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" has landed them on major stages from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl. As half of The Hopeful Gospel Quartet, they have collaborated on several CDs with the show's host, Garrison Keillor, and were prominently featured in the 2006 film *A Prairie Home Companion*, directed by master filmmaker Robert Altman.

Also returning to the Wintergreen Mountain Music Fest are **The Deer Creek Boys** (http://www.deercreekboys.com)**,** a young band that has been enjoying huge success on the local bluegrass circuit. They performed at the 1st Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Music Fest. In 2007 they won 1st place in the Bluegrass Band competition at the renowned and highly competitive Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention. Their fame is growing and they just keep getting better. Three of the members, Cason Ogden (mandolin), Justin Tomlin (guitar), and Jason Tomlin (bass), have been together since the spring of 1999. Justin, a 2005 graduate of Amherst County High School, attends Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Va., studying business management and also works at Poplar Grove Golf Course. Jason graduated from Amherst County High School this June and plans to attend Central Virginia Community College. He also works at Winton Country Club. Cason is a 2005 graduate of Amherst County High School and attends Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge Va., working toward an associates degree in Forestry Technology. David Carroll is the old man of the group. He lives in Bath County and joined DCB in June of 2003.

Rounding out the day long schedule - the music goes from 11:00am to 7:00pm - will be old time groups **The McKenzies and Kim and Jimbo Cary** (http://mckenziemusic.com) and **The Company Store** (http://www.companystoreband.com) along with the bluegrass group **The Courtney Hollow Band** (http://www.courtneyhollow.com). Visit the Wintergreen Performing Arts website at http://www.wintergreenperformingarts.org for a schedule and more information on the performers.

Mark your calendars for additional Wintergreen Performing Arts events: August 30 for the International Festival of Wines and September 27 for the Oktoberfest, both in the Evans Center on the mountain.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Did you bake cookies? Did you show up at 7:30 AM to monitor the Race? Did you arrange flowers? Did you pour wine? Did you clean chairs? Did you check in on a guest artist? Did you take tickets? Did you host a musician, drive to the airport, distribute posters, contact a newspaper, host an Event Fair party, invite friends to a concert?

If you did even one of these things, the Wintergreen Performing Arts Board says THANK YOU! The 2008 Summer Music Festival simply could not have happened without our many wonderful volunteers. Every appetizer, every chair, every phone call makes a contribution to our mission of providing a high-quality Summer Music Festival to our patrons, education to our Academy students, and outreach to the community.

We look forward to continuing with this mission, and appreciate your good efforts in helping us do so!

Most gratefully,

Larry Alan Smith, Artistic and Executive Director

Mike Brooks, WPA President

Kaye Pietrowicz, WPA Volunteer Coordinator

'Wildlife at Wintergreen'
November 3, 7:30 pm
Tuckahoe Club House

Stoney Creek resident, Marshall Faintich, has been actively photographing birds and other wildlife at Wintergreen for the past several years. Marshall entertained many of us in the spring with his stories and bird photos. He has added MANY new photos which include other wildlife of Wintergreen.

This is one event you should not miss! Even if you attended before, the photos will be new, and I am sure the stories will be equally funny and entertaining. This is a great way to spend an evening and to help raise funds for Tuckahoe.

Admission is $10 per person. We will have light refreshments afterward.

Contact Mary Wolf for more information, 361-0213

Rockfish Valley Foundation Event
August 19th at 2pm

by Peter Agelasto

Everyone is invited to attend the dedication of the Hurricane Camille historic marker located at the Rockfish River Trail head on Rt. 151 at the bridge over the S. Fork of the Rockfish River. The dedication will occur at 2 pm on August 19, 2008 which is the 39th anniversary of Hurricane Camille in Nelson County. The devastating rains fell in the evening of August 19 and early morning of August 20.

The program will consist of brief remarks by Nelson County officials, representatives of VA Dept of Historic Resources, VA Dept of Transportation, the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, Cliff Wood, former Nelson County Supervisor and others to be announced. Cliff was involved in the Camille marker placed at Woods Mill in 1971. The additional marker is a replica of that and states:

ON AUGUST 20, 1969, TORRENTIAL RAINS, FOLLOWING REMNANTS OF HURRICAN CAMILLE,DEVASTATED THIS AREA. A RAINFALL IN EXCESS OF 25 INCHES LARGELY WITHIN A 5-HOUR PERIOD, SWEPT AWAY OR BURIED MANY MILES OF ROADS, OVER 100 BRIDGES, AND OVER 900 BUILDINGS. 114 PEOPLE DIED AND 37 REMAIN MISSING. THE DAMAGE TOTALED MORE THAN $100,000,000 AND VIRGINIA WAS DECLARED A DISASTER AREA.

This second marker is located on the site of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ewing who were swept away by the flood and perished on the evening of August 19, 1969. A total of 125 persons died or were lost in Nelson County which at the time was more than 1% of the population.

Please call 434-361-2251 for further information. Light refreshments will be served at the event.

Check out our website: http://www.rockfishvalley.org

Fifth Annual Opportunity Ball at Veritas Winery

SAVE THE DATE—November 22, 2008

Have you ever attended the Opportunity Ball at Veritas? If not, you are in for a real treat. This will be the fifth year for the annual Opportunity Ball – a fund raising gala for the Nelson County Community Fund, which includes a fabulous sit-down dinner, dancing and an auction.

What is the Nelson County Community Fund? This wonderful organization is made up of local volunteers who work tirelessly to generate funds for many different organizations in Nelson County. This includes programs such as: a local food bank, a dental task force working to open a clinic, a medication assistance program, a Head Start program, a transportation program for the handicapped and the elderly, as well as many other very worthwhile and needed programs for those less fortunate within our county.

The proceeds from the Opportunity Ball go towards the Nelson County Community Fund. Once again, we have set a very AGGRESSIVE goal and we are looking to our wonderful community for help. Our goal is $75,000 and we need your help. Please consider sponsoring and/or attending the ball. Sponsorships range from $25-$10,000. Tickets for the ball are $125 per person. We also need live and silent auction items.

Look for information soon regarding sponsorships, ball tickets and auction donations.

Contact Mary Wolf, 361-0213 for any additional information.

OLLI at UVa

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Virginia, called OLLI at UVa, offers classes and activities for adults 50 and above. Our classes are purely for enjoyment. There are neither tests nor grades, nor educational requirements. OLLI at UVa provides the opportunity for you to join your peers in the joy of learning and the many benefits it brings.

Session A classes start **Monday, September 8th**, and Session B classes start **Monday, October 27** at various locations in Charlottesville. If you did not receive a catalog, you can always view our fall 2008 catalog online by visiting our website: www.olliuva.org .

In spring 2009, we will offer courses not only in Charlottesville, but also at the Augusta Medical Center. We hope you will join us at our new location! If you want to be on our mailing list, please email the OLLI Office at: olliuva@comcast.net or call us at: 434-923-3600.

We hope to hear from you soon!

The OLLI Office at UVa
434-923-3600
email: olliuva@comcast.net
website: www.olliuva.org

Magic at Wintergreen

by Joan Stemmler

In A Bridge to Terabithia, a lucky pair of children have the good fortune to find together an enchanted kingdom. Terabithia is across a creek from their neighboring Virginia farm-houses in a pine woods where Jess and Leslie become King and Queen and confront, conquer and control invading goblins and ogres, while at the same time facing problems and finding solutions to events in their real life 10 year old world of fifth grade. No grown-up really knows or cares where they are.

Of course, we knew where our children and grandchildren were last week – here at wonderland Wintergreen. Adults and kids managed to hike, walk, climb the Wall, play tennis and Monopoly, listen to jazz, check out the salamanders in Stoney Creek, learn to play bridge (at last) – and even play a card game a Dane in Spain taught my 13-year-old grandson. But the youngest ones, the eleven-year-old younger brother and his six-year-old cousin caught my heart because they took over and transformed our next door lot into another kind of wonderful land.

I sort of hung out nearby the first day reminding them about "critters" they should always be aware of in the woods, like rattlesnakes, and cautioning that if anything happened they must come and tell a responsible adult, a concept their parents also reinforced. I listened to the murmur of voices to see how things were going. It was soon apparent that they were as sure footed as mountain goats and by the third day there were a series of christened boulders whose names they recited: Falcon, Millennium, Destroyer, Battleship, Shield, Blango, Lookout, Citadel, Fortress, Sacred Grove, Outlook, and, the highest, biggest, most central place was Temple Rock. "My" boulders had suddenly acquired personalities and functions and were individualized destination points. Some were piled with weapons that the boys sat and scraped smooth with rocks, or pounded to flatten. This activity surely owed to Kathy Knowles who had stopped by and talked to them about Native Americans, quartzite and its functional uses as scrapers and tools. A shelter was built on one rock; councils and plans were made on Temple. There were inner circles and defensive observation points Highly influenced by the world of TV animated films and hand-held "thises" and "thates" operated by thumbs, this imaginary place was different, requiring a lot of running, climbing, moving around and shaping, and occasional forays for food and drink supplies. A map was made, trails were named, and I hope a week of companionship and fun was consolidated.

Our less than an acre backing on the preserved open space took on a whole new aspect. No longer just "our view," more than a teaching place for the natural sciences or a forest habitat in which multiple layers of flora and fauna can flourish. It became a world of magic springing up over night right outside our windows.

The **Mountain Women Gardeners Group** (who meet on the 3rd Friday of each month) made a field trip on June 20th to Edible Landscaping. It is a mail-order business, almost in our backyard, up one of those lovely valleys, off Rt 151. Owner Michael McConkey not only gave us a tour, but also entertained us with his own music … you might have seen him performing at the Farmers Market on occasion. The group sampled as they toured ... huge blueberries, sweet mulberries, Alpine strawberries, cherries, blackberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, June berries, wine berries, red currants, and even black kiwis. Luckily, we were not so full that we couldn't fit in a lunch at the Vineyard Coffee House, which shares a building with the Flying Fox Vineyard (although the two businesses are separately owned by two couples.) The Coffee House belongs to Mindi and Shawn Goodwin and are opened from 7a.m. to 4 p.m Monday - Friday. The Flying Fox Vineyard has wine tasting on the weekends.

If you are interested in joining the Mountain Women Gardeners Group, you can contact Vera Jones at 325-9256.

The Wintergreen Nature Foundation

WHAT HAS TWNF DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

By Anne Wood, member of TWNF Board of Directors

TWNF has had a busy spring! Two new trails are now open: a short interpretive hike around Trillium House which is interesting and proves to be an easy walk ,and the Morgan's Loop Trail, which is for hikers who prefer a bit of a challenge.

On a different note, Josh Palumbo and his cadre of volunteers have completed the Gypsy Moth survey which helps WPOA to pinpoint areas to be sprayed. As well the first of two annual deer counts in the valley has just been completed. The information gleaned from these studies is provided to WPOA, with whom we work in concert, to benefit the entire Wintergreen community.

For the young at heart, come and meet Arthur, a 4-foot king snake on display at Trillium House. Bring the youngsters up to witness his weekly feeding! Previously someone's pet, he is tame and enjoys contact with humans; anyone interested?

The May dedication of the Founders' Vision Overlook was well-attended and gave many folks an opportunity to talk with the men who were instrumental in the creation of Wintergreen and, ultimately, of TWNF. Wildflower Weekend, held in conjunction with Natural History weekend, was a big success this year, as was the emphasis on recreation.

I would like to respond to comments made to me recently about the distance from Stoney Creek to the TWNF's activities. I cannot help but consider the many valley folks who wind their way up the mountain to ski, to play golf at Devils Knob and to attend WPA concerts: the drive certainly doesn't deter them! So, get involved, and the short drive may then seem less of a problem! We welcome constructive comments. After all TWNF is for all of us, as well as for the good of our environment.

Please note the following dates; there is something interesting for everyone!

August 30/31 - Native plant sale

September 26 - Sara Ott Annual Golf Classic
This annual event raises thousands of dollars every year to help underwrite the Foundation's important work at Wintergreen and with school children from surrounding communities.

October 18 - Fall Foliage Weekend

Check out our website for more information

http://www.twnf.org

Tuckahoe Club House Update

If you haven't been to Tuckahoe for a while, you are in for a treat. The new patio is complete and the WPOA tent is currently in place. Many thanks to Russell Otis and his staff for their wonderful work and assistance with this update. The patio allows us to expand our outdoor space and will also serve as a permanent foundation, should we decide to expand the kitchen area of the building in the future.

We had our first fundraiser to help pay for the new patio. Marshall Faintich entertained a large crowd with stories and photos of birds at Wintergreen. We raised $1000 with this event. We still need to raise another $4000 to pay the remainder of the money we owe for the patio.

If you know someone who would be an interesting speaker, I am looking for additional guest speakers to help raise additional funds. Contact Mary Wolf, 361-0213.

Tuckahoe Club House Guidelines for Usage

Our club house continues to get more and more use. It is wonderful to have this facility and to see it being used and enjoyed. However, like any heavily used facility, we need to establish guidelines in order to assure that everyone can enjoy themselves to the fullest. PLEASE follow these guidelines when you or your group uses the facility. These will also be prominently posted in our club house.

- NO SMOKING allowed.
- Any Wintergreen homeowner can **rent or utilize** the facility. Groups and clubs can use the facility at no charge for meetings. There is a non-refundable charge of $75 for parties, dinners, wine tastings, buffets, etc. Contact Theresa Harris at 325-8530.
- **Leave the building as you found it. Put away chairs/ tables and leave the room clean. This includes the REFRIGERATOR and the carpeting. Please do not leave food in the refrigerator after your function.**
- Keys can be borrowed from the WPOA office or the SC Fire and Rescue Station. Please return them promptly. Make sure the building is **LOCKED** when you leave.
- **NOTHING can be borrowed or removed from this room. We have already had 2 tables removed and not returned.**
- Use the side entrance which goes directly into our room. DO NOT use the front entrance as this disturbs the school children.

Thank you very much!

Wintergreen Adaptive Sports Hosted
2nd Annual Wounded Warrior Kayaking & Canoeing Weekend - August 2-3

As the snow melts each spring many skiers and snowboarders ask, "What's next?" This year Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing has offered an answer: canoeing and kayaking.

For over 13 years, Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing (WAS), a non-profit corporation, has been teaching downhill skiing and snowboarding to children and adults with disabilities including blindness, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, paraplegia, mental illnesses, amputations, and more. Many of these students have disabilities as the result of injuries from serving in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan WAS has sponsored 4 Wounded Warrior Weekends, helping injured military professionals learn to ski and snowboard, and has provided over 2,000 lessons to more than 650 people with disabilities.

For the third year, WAS offered summertime recreational activities for people with disabilities. All in all there will be five Adaptive Boating Weekends this summer, but on the weekend of August 2-3, a very special weekend took place. During that weekend, instructors from WAS, Team River Runners of Northern Virginia, and the Sweet Briar College Outdoor Program teamed up to teach the joys of kayaking and canoeing to a group of injured American military personnel. Up to 8 servicemen, all currently in-patients at the Martinsburg, West Virginia Veterans Administration Hospital, stayed in the homes of Wintergreen residents and were treated to a Saturday of basic water safety and beginning paddling instruction at Wintergreen's Lake Monocan and a 7 mile river trip on the James River on Sunday. All meals, including a Saturday night cook-out provided by the Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Department, were absolutely free to our Wounded Warriors. In fact, the entire weekend was free to these brave men and women thanks to the generosity of WAS, Wintergreen property owners, Wintergreen Resort itself, WAS' parent organization Disabled Sports/USA, the Bama Fund of the Dave Mathews Band, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Throughout the weekend, our military students discovered what their bodies can do--not what they can't do. As people learn that the possibilities for canoeing and kayaking are endless, they become aware that there are no limits to the possibilities of other sports, educational opportunities, professions, and more. "If I can do this, I can do anything."

For more information, or to make a donation to help support this great activity, contact Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing at 434-325-2007 or email us at info@skiwas.org.

About Wintergreen Adaptive Sports (WAS)

The mission of Wintergreen Adaptive Sports is to establish, operate, and maintain educational programs that encourage children, teenagers, and adults with disabilities to learn to play outdoor sports. The program provides standard and adaptive equipment, as well as trained volunteer instructors, both adult and teenaged. Sports offer profound therapeutic benefits, including increased physical vitality and stamina, as well as important improvements in overall mental and emotional health.

During the summer of 1996, WAS incorporated in the state of Virginia and achieved non-profit 501(c) 3 status with its chapter membership in Disabled Sports/USA, the largest sports and recreation organization for individuals with disabilities in the United States. Over the organization's thirteen-year history, WAS has given ski, snowboard, and boating lessons, and over 200 volunteer instructors have worked with the program. Over 1,000 children, teenagers, and adults with a wide range of disabilities, including deafness and blindness, spina bifida, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, paraplegia, and quadriplegia, had been introduced to the sport of skiing, snow boarding, kayaking, and canoeing.

The region served by WAS includes the entire mid-Atlantic area of the United States. WAS also serves students from the metropolitan areas of Washington, D.C., Richmond, Va., Raleigh-Durham, NC, and many of the smaller cities and rural communities within 150 miles of Wintergreen Ski Resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Though independent from Wintergreen Resort itself, WAS operates with the full support of Wintergreen's management and community.

Contact: Michael Zuckerman, Executive Director.

E-mail: michaelzuckerman@earthlink.net

Website: www.skiwas.org

NOTICE— Do you have electronic stuff to recycle?

On Saturday September 6th at the Rockfish Valley Community Center in Afton. Nelson County Life Magazine, _RVCC, and Crutchfield Electronics in Charlottesville have teamed up to bring their electronics recycle truck to **RVCC from 9AM to 3 PM.** That's the same day as the monthly pancake breakfast. Normally you'd have to drive over to their place in Charlottesville and pay a small fee to dispose of certain electronic items, but not this particular day!

Check out details at http://www.nelsoncountylife.com/2008/08/10/crutchfield-recycle-rvcc-afton-virginia/

Wintergreen Police Department Update

By Chief Stan Olah

The Wintergreen Police Department has been busy this year dealing with several events and issues, some good and some not so good. The first major announcement for 2008 was the attainment of state accreditation.

The second update deals with the on-going deer harvesting program and its contribution to the Hunters for the Hungry program in central Virginia.

A third matter deals with wildlife that owners share their homes with…BEAR. This unfortunately required the removal of four bears from the community. We encourage you to report to the department any bear sightings you may encounter. Gathering such information will help us in resolving bear problems should they occur in the future.

Our next issue is the increasing number of complaints regarding SPEEDING, both in the valley and on the mountain. We realize that it is not a crime that requires intent to violate nor is it easy to always drive the speed limit without a continuous conscientious effort.

Knowing the foregoing, it is our policy first to attempt to get people to slow down and show respect to all persons who use the roadways within the community. However, each officer is given the authority to warn or issue a summons based on the individual circumstances of the traffic stop and their interaction with the driver. In other words, the driver really dictates the issuance of a warning or a speeding ticket. It is our desire to not issue a ticket if deemed to be the best appropriate action for the driver and the community.

When a warning is issued, driver information is computerized so that repeat offenders can be dealt with in a manner requiring their appearance in court, and if found guilty, a fine, a new driving record and maybe an increase in their vehicle insurance could be the result. Wintergreen is an exceptional community to be a part of so let's keep it that way.

Crime is a primary area of concern for all of us and unfortunately it happens on occasion here at Wintergreen. With the majority of all crime reported, most occurs during the 90 day ski season. We continue to have a very low crime rate with very few crimes directly affecting an owner of Wintergreen property. We encourage you to call the department if you observe, or if you even think you observe, any suspicious activities so that an officer can respond to check the circumstances. You should never feel you are "bothering" us at 3:00 am in the morning. We are here 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to serve you as an owner, the community and the resort.

Rodes Farm Stables Progress Update

As many of you are aware, the future of Rodes Farm has been under discussion by WPI management. On July 11th, representatives of WPI and Wintergreen Resort met with concerned members of WPI, WPOA and our non-Wintergreen neighbors to discuss the future of Rodes Farm Stables. The resort representatives explained that, because WPI is faced with serious financial shortfalls, efforts are underway to cut costs across a broad range of resort activities. Among these is the proposed closure of the Rodes Farm Stables, which for the fiscal year just ended reported an operating deficit of roughly $45,000. There have been several expressions of interest about purchasing or leasing the facility and the equestrian operations, but nothing that Wintergreen resort officials consider a firm offer. The issue is further complicated because land ownership falls across both WPI and WPOA boundaries.

Lots of positive comments as well as concerns were forthcoming from the participants, virtually all of whom were in favor of retaining the operation, despite the negative financial impact. It was decided to form a Rodes Farm Task Force, which had its inaugural meeting on Saturday, July 19 to continue discussions aimed at developing strategies to keep the stables in operation. This meeting was attended by WPI members, Rodes Farm-area property owners, representatives of WPI management, and WPI Board members Stu Armstrong and Patrick Morin. After a general discussion, the Task Force broke into a number of work groups after which it was agreed to create a Virginia non-stock corporation, to be known as the **Rodes Farm Stables Foundation**.

Participation in the Foundation will be open to all those interested in preserving the stables and surrounding land, maintaining and expanding the stables' traditional activities, and initiating a horse rescue program. The group plans to have a website in the near future and is actively planning promotional and fund raising activities for this fall.

The first general membership meeting was held at the Tuckahoe School on August 9, and proposed By-Laws for the new foundation was reviewed by members. After some discussion and minor modifications, the By-Laws and initial Board of Directors were approved. The purpose of the foundation is "to assure that the Rodes Farm Stables, related facilities, and nearby meadows, pastures, and other open spaces are preserved, managed, and maintained for equestrian use; provide, encourage, and promote equestrian education, recreation, therapy, and related activities; and participate in the rescue, rehabilitation, and care of neglected and abandoned horses."

Annual membership is $25 for full-time students, $35 for individuals, and $50 for a family. Checks, made out to Rodes Farm Stables Foundation, Inc., can be sent to RFSF, Inc., PO Box 707, Nellysford, VA. 22958. If you include your email address, you'll be added to the distribution list to receive update information.

You are invited to contact Phil Chabot at 202-345-6383 if you have questions regarding the Rodes Farm Stables Foundation.

THE LINK

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

2008 RENEWAL DUES

2008 WINTERGREEN MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DIRECTORY INFORMATION

FAMILY NAME _____ **FIRST NAMES** _____

NEW_____ **RENEWAL** _____

WG 911 ADDRESS _____ **WG PHONE** _____

HOME / MAILING ADDRESS _____

_____

HOME PHONE ( )_____ **FAX NUMBER** ( )_____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

_____ **Do not include our email in the directory**

_____ **Continue to send paper copy of LINK newsletter 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 the above and return with a check for $20 for one year to:**

Membership Chair, Wintergreen Mountain Homesteaders Association
Rt. 1, Box 508, Roseland, VA 22967

*** Starting in 2008, the LINK will be sent electronically to email address above. Saves money/time on printing, postage, labeling, sorting … leaves more money for parties!**

**** We are no longer accepting/processing three year memberships. Good idea, but accounting headache. MHA Board decided to KIS (Keep It Simple.)**