THE LINK

May 2009

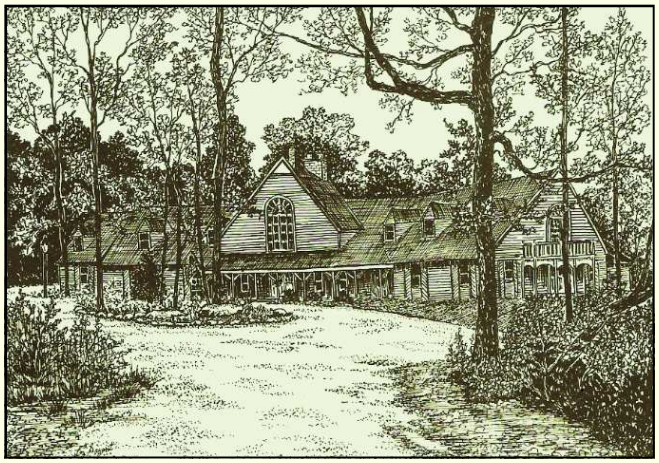
NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION

Editor—Marti Szczur

Ah, Spring … the green returns to Wintergreen!

The Trillium House—A Mountain Treasure

By Sue Carlson



In front of the Trillium House fireplace on a table between two easy chairs is a small bowl of biscuits. Now and then someone like me picks up one to sample and discovers that these are DOG BISCUITS! Now why would the building that is the home of The Wintergreen Nature Foundation have a bowl of dog biscuits in the front room? As you stand there pondering this riddle, Mel Hutchinson's dog Blackie or one of Chip Morgan's dogs wanders in to greet you. Moments later, a weekend hiker comes in for a trail map, with children and a dog in tow.

Yes, not only are dogs welcome at the Trillium House, but dogs have been part of this building since Ed and Betty Dinwiddie built and opened the building as a country inn, which they named The Trillium House in 1983. Having owned a weekend place on West Elkwood since 1976, the Dinwiddies wanted more than a weekend place. They wanted to stay. By opening up a country inn, they could make a living and offer much needed hospitality to visitors to the mountain. "We broke ground on April 13, 1983, Mr. Jefferson's birthday," Ed informed me, "and opened later that year on Christmas. It was a party that lasted 16 years." Ed and Betty moved into the inn with their children and a Cardigan Welsh corgi named Pyms, after Ms. Pym, the breeder. Before long, more dog playmates (labs) joined Pyms.

"We operated as an inn, not a bed and breakfast, because we served dinners," explained Ed. At first the Dinwiddies cooked all the meals; however, as their business progressed, they needed assistance with food preparation. The chef at The Mountain Inn suggested Ellen English, whom Ed called a Godsend. "She became like a daughter to us and stayed 15 years", Ed said. Ed helped Ellen find a black lab for her and Miss Walker became another dog to spend time at the inn.

The dogs greeted the guests, who were allowed to borrow a dog for a walk. Guests were also allowed to bring their dogs, as long as they were well behaved.

A big weekend event sponsored by the country inn was the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament. ACC fans, mostly UVA fans, would fill the Trillium House from Thursday through Sunday to watch the basketball games on a big screen, wearing referee shirts that Ed and Betty provided so they could make their own calls. Ed arranged for conference programs to be delivered in advance for the guests. "Ellen went wild with the food," Ed recalled, "She made creative meals and snacks throughout the weekend. What a party!"

Ellen, who graduated from JMU with a degree in hotel management, chose to live on the mountain shortly after graduation. In the fall of 1982, she started in the kitchen at the Copper Mine, and in 1985 came to the Trillium House as the chef and associate innkeeper. Dinners were served in the room now named the Dunlop Room on Friday and Saturday nights including Sunday on three-day weekends. Daily breakfasts and meals for group meetings or special events such as the ACC, were specialties of the inn. At Christmas, Ellen and a friend made a gingerbread replica of the Trillium House, which was displayed at the inn for several years.

The Inn's unique atmosphere, food, and hospitality earned recognition in the hospitality industry and profiled in a number of industry magazines. The Learning Channel featured the Trillium House in their TV series, "Great Country Inns of America"

"The Dinwiddies let me bring Miss Walker to work. She was raised at the Trillium House from the time she was 8 weeks old. She learned how to behave from Jemima, who learned from Cocoa." Miss Walker came to work with Ellen until the Inn was closed and sold. In October 1999, the Dinwiddies threw one last party before selling the building. In Betty's words, "It was time." That year, The Trillium House began its new career as the home of The Wintergreen Nature Foundation.

Jemima, Ed and Betty's choc lab, Stoli, their son Ted's yellow lab, and Miss Walker, Ellen's black lab in 1993.

The Wintergreen Nature Foundation (TWNF) had planned to build a permanent home to replace the three

(Continued on page 9)

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President's Corner

WOW, WHAT A GREAT RED PARTY!!

For all of you that missed the RED PARTY, hosted by Millie Steele and her committee, Joan Berry, Martha Misker, and Kate McIntire, you missed a real treat!! Plus, everything was **RED**, the food, the wine and all of the appropriate trimmings. And as a new twist, Tom Steele, Charlie McIntire, Ed Misker and Fred Thomas served us. And yes, they wore Red Aprons and appropriate matching hats. Outstanding party. Thanks, Millie.

Mark your calendars. The Town Meeting will be held at Lake Monacan on Saturday, May 23rd. Coffee and donuts from 8 - 9:00 am and the meeting will start thereafter. We have a full slate of speakers and hope to see you there.

Don't forget that the annual Shrimp Fest will be June 6th at Chestnut Springs Pool and Pavilion starting @ 5:30 pm. Get your reservations in early, because it is limited to the first 80 members … and it is a Members Only event.

To ensure you continue to get the Link and or Party notices, please send any new addresses to Membership Chair/ Vice President Steve Marianella @ smsales1@aol.com or via mail to RR1, Box 508, Roseland, VA. 22967. Note: send all RSVPs to John Armel, RR1, Box 650, Roseland, VA. 22967 or 434-325-6772 or jlatwg@aol.com.

Regards,

Horace Brady, MHA, President

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.

Scrapbook Group meets the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. Contact Barbara Marker on 325-7339 or tbmarker@aol.com

Epicurious Group meets on the second Thursday of every other (even) month. Contact Sylvia Stafford 325-1439 or 410-268-1681.

Editor's Note

Big news … well,, not world peace big news, but big news from a "coming of age" perspective.

*MHA now has a **web page** … http://wintergreenmha.org. It's not fancy, but functional (I hope!) Besides the cultural pressure of "every organization has a web site," the intent is to offer easy access to the LINK and other MHA news.*

Alas, there is also a selfish logic … I'd love to reduce the number of newsletters I need to print, fold, seal, label, stamp and mail. We still have about 25% of our members who request paper LINKS. Realizing that some of you do not have high-speed internet connection or are not regular computer users, we will continue to prepare and mail the newsletter upon request. However, if you are receiving a paper copy and would be comfortable with a LINK e-version, please let me know. You'd make my day!

Feedback on our website is welcome. (A cut of the Home Page is on Page 10.) I'll gladly fix mistakes and make periodic updates. And, if someone would really like to make the website fancy, how about volunteering to be our webmaster? You'd make my day! (again)

Marti Szczur, LINK Editor (szczurmar@aol.com)

2009

Mountain Homesteaders Activities

Feb 7th — Winter BINGO Party

March 7th — Red Party

SUMMER EVENTS

June 6th —Shrimp Fest

July 4th — Independence Day Picnic

August 8th — Italian Dinner

Sept. 12th — Lobster Fest

Sept. 26th—Oktoberfest

Dec. 11th — Annual Holiday Gala (at Veritas Winery)

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

PARTY RESULTS

The winners from the Winter Bingo Party on Feb 7th were

- Evelyn White
- Joyce Claman
- Kathy Knowles
- Ed Misker
- Gloria Daly

* **Grand Prize Of $100.00 To Marylou Thibodeau**

BEAR SMART NEWS *by Bob and Sarah Scott*

It is April and our neighbors, the black bears, are back. The Bear Smart Council is asking citizens of the Wintergreen Community to make some minor lifestyle adjustments in their neighborhoods to ensure a healthy future for the bears.

According to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, **feeding birds** accounts for a large percentage of bear complaints. Once bears have learned to come to homes in search of food, they lose their natural caution around humans, and they can become aggressive, thus leading to the kind of bear deaths Wintergreen experienced in 2007-08.

In January WPOA approved a policy that asks residents to **refrain from bird feeding from April 1st until December 1st.** This action was taken because of recommendations from the Bear Smart Council and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Russell Otis, Executive Director of WPOA welcomes this action and says: "It is truly wonderful to see this level of initiative and cooperation from a community-based group in our ongoing efforts to share our neighborhoods with the population of black bears. This added effort to educate owners and guests can reap huge dividends in our work to co-exist with our wild neighbors."

Other important steps have been taken to discourage bears from foraging at garbage sites and around homes.

Bear-proof containers are being installed in public areas.

WPOA has created another policy that prohibits outside garbage cans unless they are bear-proof.

Many of the condo associations are placing signs on their dumpsters to remind residents and guests that bears are in the area. The signs ask that garbage be left only in the dumpster with the doors and locks secured.

WPI is providing Bear Smart information in each rental unit, and they have asked guests who are renting homes to keep garbage inside and call for pick-up.

According to Jaime Sajecki, Black Bear Project Director for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, **"Wintergreen is the first Bear Smart Community in Virginia."** The Bear Smart Council is confident that with the support of citizens, we can keep our black bears WILD and foraging for food in the forests.

The bears and the Bear Smart Council thank you.

"Friends don't let friends feed the birds from April 1-December 1."

Love and the 2009 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival Appalachian Roots – A Cultural Kaleidoscope July 6-August 2

by Larry Alan Smith, Artistic and Executive Director

[Saturday afternoon at 5:30 pm. Gristmill Lounge in the Mountain Inn. He, forty-five, in khakis and a comfy weekend shirt, is sitting at a table looking through a small booklet. She, forty-two, looking like she just came off the golf course, is thumbing through a newspaper at a neighboring table.]

He: Have you purchased your Festival Season Pass for the 2009 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival?

She: *[Looking up]* Well . . . no. Is that something I should do?

He: Are you kidding? There will be more than 200 events in 28 days, and people with Festival Season Passes save tons of money.

She: But I like to play golf several times a week, and I'm not sure it will be worth it.

He: You obviously haven't seen the schedule. They have things scheduled throughout the day. You can't golf 13 hours a day!

She: That's for sure. Most of the time, I only play nine holes. I really like music, but I'm also into plays and dance, and I really like going to films.

He: You are in luck. The 2009 Festival has two plays based on two of Lee Smith's novels, and believe it or not . . . Graham II – The Performing Ensemble of the Martha School of Contemporary Dance is coming down from New York City. To top it off, they have included 48 showings of 14 films as part of the Wintergreen Appalachian Film Festival.

She: *[Reaching out her hand]* Let me take a look at that Ticket Booklet. *[Reading]* Wow . . . I never knew there was so much fun stuff to do . . . and it is all right here at Wintergreen!

He: I especially like the Morning Seminars. They bring incredible people to the mountain, and the environment is very relaxed. It is a great chance to learn new and interesting things.

She: Amazing! They are having Mike Seeger at Wintergreen during Week II. And . . . hey . . . this guy from Juilliard sounds pretty interesting. I always wondered what I should hear when I listen to music.

He: You know, it might be fun to do some of this together. *[Sheepishly]* Are you taken . . . I mean . . . are you seeing someone?

She: Well . . . ah . . . humm . . . *[nervous laughter]* . . . to be honest . . . no.

He: The Opening Night Reception and Performance is on July 8. Let's get started in style. Will you join me?

She: *[Thinking aloud]* The *Appalachian Roots* theme is pretty cool. *[Decisively]* Yes . . . let's do it. And on July 9, they are opening Appalachian ArtFest. We can't miss that. I hear Nic Gilliam is going to be there!

He: Now you're talking. I think we are going to have a pretty exciting month.

She: Let's both get Festival Season Passes. How much are they?

He: $350 . . . they really should charge more. It's a bargain.

She: *[Enthusiastically]* What a deal!

He: *[Inquisitively]* Do you have plans for dinner?

She: Not yet.

He: I've got some homemade pasta and some very nice wine *at my place.*

She: Sounds good to me. And to think . . . we owe this all to Wintergreen Performing Arts.

He: Yes we do!

[He and she stand. They smile at each other and start to leave. She suddenly remembers the Ticket Booklet on the table. She picks it up and puts it in her purse. Music soars. Lights fade.]

Let the 2009 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival change your life. **The 2009 Ticket Booklet will be mailed on May 4th, and tickets will go on sale at 9:00 am on Monday, May 11th.** If you want to avoid being disappointed, you will need to plan your Festival month well in advance. Visit the WPA website at **www.wintergreenperformingarts.org** or phone (**434) 325-8292**. And for those of you who enjoy using FlexPacks (six very flexible tickets!), you can save $10 by purchasing them before June 1st.

Golfers unite! Plan your golf around the 2009 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival. And while you are at it, don't miss the zany duo of Ricky Wells and Virginia's very own Mark "Woody" Keppel at Pops Concert II on Wednesday, July 22. The FOOLZ will delight everyone with their most unusual brand of comedy.

Pianist Mary Kathleen Ernst performs at 7:30 pm on Monday, July 13 in the Evans Center. Don't miss this concert!

WINTERGREEN POLICE UPDATE

by *Stan Olah, Chief, Wintergreen Police Department*

The Wintergreen Police Department enhancing speed enforcement

Beginning in May 2009, the police department will increase their enforcement efforts of the posted speed limits within the Wintergreen mountain and valley communities. The department has recently acquired two additional radar sets which will allow for radar speed monitoring on a 24 hour a day basis.

The management team has taken considerable time to create an enforcement policy we believe appropriate for the mindset of our community and the resort after review of accident data and multiple complaints relating to speeding within the community from property owners. Please keep in mind 25 mph is the speed limit set by state law in all residential subdivisions unless otherwise posted.

Public safety IS our number one concern. Officers are given the discretion to issue a warning or summons for speeding or any other minor traffic violation. First time warnings are the preferred approach in most instances and hopefully will have a positive effect on the driver and their future actions. The issuance of a traffic summons may be deemed appropriate; however, based upon the attitude of the driver, whether previous warnings have been issued, the seriousness of the violation, roadway and weather conditions at the time of stop.

Please keep in mind that the officer is simply doing their job and in these instances at the same time are expected to be courteous, respectful and informative to every person. Cooperation between the motoring public and the police officer is essential in making your community a better and safer place to live, work and play.

All the officers of your police department would like to thank everyone for their continued support and understanding as we begin our enhanced approach to traffic and speed monitoring within the Wintergreen community. Please drive carefully and buckle up!

Summer Music Festival Academy Needs Your Support

Once again we would like to thank all the generous people in our wonderful community for your unyielding support of Wintergreen Performing Arts and, more specifically, to the Student Academy. Year after year, your endless casseroles, salads and baked goods have kept these talented young people happy, healthy and able to bless us with their beautiful music during the festival. Alas and not to disappoint, the 2009 festival is coming up in July and, yes, we continue to need volunteer help with food.

Although most of the dinners for the students will be provided through the resort this year, we still need assistance with weekend meals, and we are establishing a "Snack Pantry!" The kids love cookies, cakes, muffins and granola bars so those of you not interested in helping with a weekend dinner, might want to consider sharpening your baking skills for a contribution to the SP. And if neither of those two ideas appeals to you, we would be happy to accept a donation to "Pizza Night(s)". There are nights throughout the festival when nothing like a pizza hits the spot!

Please contact any one of the following on the Hostess Committee if you can assist with any of our requests and we promise your contributions will enhance beautiful music (please attend one or more of the students' concerts, the talent is unbelievable)!

Linda Harrington 361-0359, Mary Jo Russell 361-2601, Alice Karrh 361-1288, Angie Lindquist 361-0402, Diane Crannis 325-7728

You're invited to the Wintergreen Mountain Homesteaders …

SHRIMP FEST

(Members only event)

Saturday June 6th, 2009

5:30pm—8:00pm

CHESTNUT SPRINGS PARK & POOL (Trillium House, if bad weather)

$20 per person

Shrimp, Potato salad, Salad, Dessert

Beer and Soft Drinks provided

BYOB of choice

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 5/28/09
Limited to 80 people

Your check is your reservation

Make check payable to Mountain Homesteaders Association
(include names of attendees, your address and phone number)

Send check to John Armel, RR 1, PO Box 650, Roseland, VA 22967

You're invited to the Wintergreen Mountain Homesteaders …

FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

(Members and guests welcome)

Saturday July 4th, 2009

5:30pm until ...

CHESTNUT SPRINGS PARK & POOL

$5 per person

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Potato salad, Cole Slaw, & Dessert

Lemonade and Iced Tea provided

BYOB

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 6/21/09
Limited to 90 people

Your check is your reservation

Make check payable to Mountain Homesteaders Association (include names of attendees, your address and phone number)

Send check to John Armel, RR 1, PO Box 650, Roseland, VA 22967

The Wintergreen Nature Foundation

Looking for something to do this summer? Spring and summer provide an ideal time to participate in Nature Foundation activities. The following are just a few of the possibilities.

* Wildflower Weekend – May 15-17
* Native Plant Sale – May 23-24
* Summer Jubilee at Trillium House – FRIDAY, July 3rd - crafts, snacks, games, Puppet shows for the family
* WILD Day Camp – July 20-24 (3rd – 6th graders)
* Night Hike for families – August 8
* Ongoing Saturday hikes and outings; canoe trip

For further information, call 325-7451 or email info@twnf.org or check out **http://www.twnf.org**

For the golfing crowd, mark your calendars now for the ever-popular **16th Annual Sarah Ott Memorial Classic** on 9/25 at Stoney Creek (and the Ladies Nine outing at Devils Knob): great golf and prizes, great food and a wonderful Silent Auction!

Registration packets will be mailed in May.

Another chance to show off your golfing talents!

Save the Dates: June 13 and 14

for the

Annual Mountain VS Valley Golf Shootout.

Contact Steve Marianella smsales1@aol.com or Ken Nelson, jzzman434@aol.com to sign up.

Photo is of Steve and Ken, last year's champion captains.

Mountain Gardeners

Second in a series of articles about interest groups which meet on a regular basis at Wintergreen.
by Kathy Knowles

The dozen or so women who founded Mountain Gardeners in 2006 all thought they knew a lot about gardening. After all, everyone had nurtured at least one garden before moving to Wintergreen and several members wore their life-long green thumbs with pride. That was before any of us had attempted to grow flowers on top of a mountain in a hardwood forest littered with huge rocks and crown vetch. The challenges of developing and maintaining a mountain garden are daunting, which makes this hardy group even more determined to understand and to cooperate with the natural elements that are so familiar at Wintergreen.

Vera in her rock garden

Vera Jones and Susie Patton co-chair the Mountain Gardeners, planning interesting trips, tours, lunches and workshops that benefit the entire group. Vera reminisced recently that when she moved to Wintergreen as a full-time resident in 2002, nothing translated between her suburban gardens in Madison, Wisconsin and the natural parameters presented on her rock-encrusted lot on Ravens Roost Lane. She soon realized that making the native greenstone rocks and boulders part of her garden plan was much smarter than trying to remove tons of rock from her front yard. Vera and Chuck have created a unique and fascinating rock garden, complete with secret pathways, natural pools for rainwater to benefit the local birds and many species of both native and exotic plants. Vera says, "rocks are wonderful! Removing the crown vetch lining the road revealed rocks of all sizes and shapes which then became focal points of the garden!"

Each lot owner on our mountain lives in a unique ecosystem, different from the valley and even different from near neighbors. Chris Casey has learned to pile good soil against her huge boulders and then to plant bulbs above-ground in the mounded dirt. It works! Joan Stemmler is our native species expert, maintaining a beautiful natural garden with hundreds of plant species from border to border on her sloping lot. Cindy Coy has developed her steep, rocky slope into a showplace garden with terraced and bordered beds of perennials, herbs and native species. Georgia Orphan's botanical expertise is limitless, and she is always willing to share sources, seeds, catalogs and advice to those of us who are still struggling with how to make mountain gardening work for us.

This wonderful group has volunteered to be a sponsor of the Wintergreen Nature Foundation Wildflower Symposium and to keep the Ladybird Johnson Garden weeded by community volunteers. It's great fun to be a mountain gardener! Join us for summer activities by calling Vera Jones at 325-6444.

May 15 - trip to Martha Derthick's 50-year-old rhododendron and azalea gardens in Charlottesville

May 23 - trip to Rick's Custom Nursery in Lexington

June 19 - trip to Andre Viette nursery in Fishersville, VA to view/ order daylilies and other perennials

July 17 - trip to Boxerwood Gardens in Lexington

August 21 - join the Nelson County and Stoney Creek Garden Clubs for a trip to Swannonoa

IT"S NEW!!!! **LOCALLY GROWN NELSON ONLINE FARMERS MARKET** IT"S NEW!!!!

Salad Greens! Bread! Meat! Eggs! Crafts! Plants!

Locally grown Nelson County Farmers Market is now available for ordering over the Internet. Go to their web site at www.nelson.locallygrown.net for details.

Farmers post their goods for the week on the website. A few days later, the customer picks up his or her order at the Rockfish Valley Community Center. Payment is made at this time directly to the Grower at pick-up.

Pick-up is Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:30pm at the Rockfish Valley Community Center on Rt.151. and at 63 Mosby Lane in Faber on Wednesday after 7pm
Salad Greens! Bread! Meat! Eggs! Crafts! Plants!

Jessie Carter, Market Manager
Locally Grown Nelson
locallygrownnelson@gmail.com
540-470-0324

SUPPORT LOCAL FARMS, such as ….

* Adam Giannini's Bread
* Ambrosia Bakery & Deli
* Black Eagle Farm
* Childs Greenhouse
* Riverside Horticultural
* Carter Homestead
* Claudia Gibson Catering
* Michelle Bessett
* Faber Firewater
* Josie May's Homemade Cookies
* Wild Oats Farm
* Enchanted Elm
* Davis Creek Farm

(Continued from page 1)

temporary offices they had been using since the organization was formed in 1994. " Purchasing the Trillium House was a better business decision financially", remarked Doug Coleman TWNF Executive Director. "Betty and Ed also had a close relationship with TWNF as they loved nature and life on the mountain. This building represents the visible expression of the community's original and historic commitment to the environment – the protection of the ecosystems and preservation of open space," he explained.

After spending about six months renovating the Trillium House to adapt the space to offices and conference rooms, the group moved in prior to The Wildflower Symposium. Encouraging the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the natural and anthropological resources of the Blue Ridge Mountains of central Virginia continues to be the mission of the organization. "You don't appreciate something without understanding it," Doug stressed.

TWNF offers learning opportunities to all ages, residents as well as visitors, and has a strong commitment to the children in the area who will be the next caretakers of the Blue Ridge Mountain environment. TWNF staff members conduct forest management for the 6,000 preserved acres around Wintergreen, maintain the hiking trails, participate in ecosystem restoration, conduct deer and gypsy moth counts, monitor streams, deal with bear or wildlife issues, organize the many programs and activities for adults and children, and sponsor or teach classes, the Winter Lecture series, Field Studies, and oversee research projects such as the ongoing archeological studies on the mountain – a large responsibility for a staff of five people.

Volunteers are a vital component of TWNF programs and services. On Tuesdays, the plant propagation group is carefully tending the native plants they are growing from seed or cuttings. These wildflowers will be planted by the volunteers around Wintergreen as well as sold to homeowners and guests. During the week, volunteers are preparing displays, spring cleaning the building, getting ready for a function, leading hikes, taking classes to become volunteer naturalists, working with groups of children or attending a variety of meetings. Volunteers help plant and maintain the wildflower gardens and interpretative trails surrounding The Trillium House. Volunteers also rescue plants prior to new home construction and offer advice to homeowners who want to landscape with native plants. If there is a job to be done, volunteers are there to help.

Today as well as when it was a country inn, The Trillium House is a focal point for the Wintergreen community. Ed Dinwiddie estimates that over $13 million in real estate sales resulted from guests at The Trillium House. Countless other Wintergreen residents, including myself, purchased property after going on a hike with Doug or Chip Morgan, or attending an event sponsored by TWNF. The Mountain Women, The Mountain Homesteaders, and other groups hold meetings or social events and parties here. "I'll meet you at The Trillium House" is a common refrain on the mountain.

Dogs are still welcome here. Nature also lives here and the animals make themselves at home. A bear in the parking area, a bobcat peeking in the front door, a chipmunk in the hallway looking for his way out, birds at the feeders,, and Arthur the snake in his glass home. We hear the laughter of children playing in Robin's Nook, visitors wanting advice or information about anything, and folks of all ages enjoying shopping at the gift shop or attending the various social and learning activities. The Trillium House is rightfully a Mountain Treasure.

TRIVIA WINTERGREEN HISTORY QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the wheel in the Mountain Inn's Grist Mill come from?

2. Devil's Knob is

A. Visible from Charlottesville
B. Named for the craggy shape at its summit
C. Named for a narrow "gate" so tight only a slim horse could get through
D. All of the above

3. The real Copper Mine is located at the original Rodes Farm stables area. (True or False)

ANSWERS

1. The mill wheel in the Mountain Inn came from an old grist mill that was operated by the owner of the original Wintergreen Store. Photo shows what remains of the mill today. It is located across Rt 151 from the (former) Spruce Creek Gallery, which was the site of the Wintergreen store.
2. D, all of the above
3. False.. It was located in Valley Foothills Section II

(Source for Q2 & 3: County Historical Society files)

SPRING MUSINGS

by Joan Stemmler

At this very moment from the corner of the deck, I feel the soft wind blowing from the east. A black-eyed junco is insistently chipping and the sun casts a weak shadow across the white page as I write. New born, red oak leaves are delicate as tiny babies' fingers and pale emerald, gold and rust maple leaves and infant winged seeds bunch at old leaf scars. White petals have fallen from the service-berries' pollinated flowers and the fruits are swelling towards ripeness among their small clusters of olive green leaves. Just days ago, the tulip poplars down in the gorge stood out in flame-shapes, the only chartreuse-green against bare branched forest. Now in the incoming misty haze that is erasing the morning sunlight billions of opening leaves have made the houses on the opposite ridge disappear.

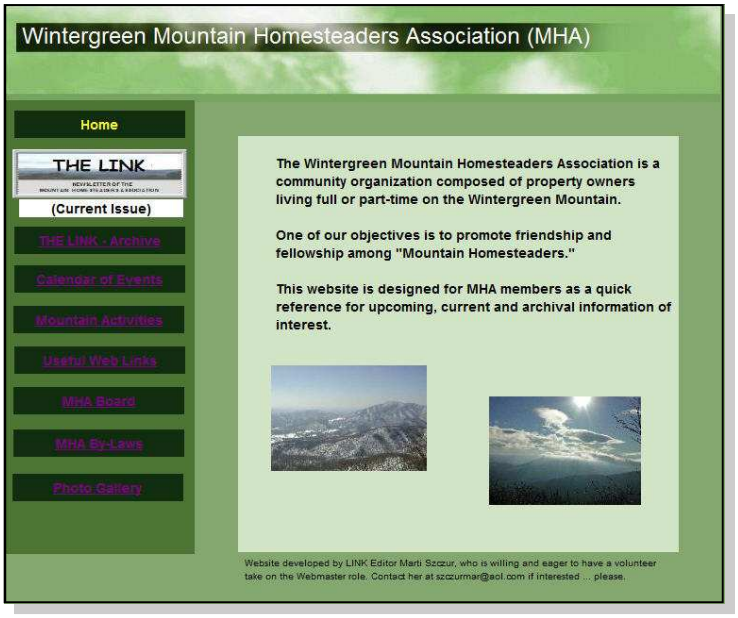
The view from the corner of our deck has not changed much since the spring of 1992 when we came here. The black birch has grown skyward, its catkins hanging down from the tips of the twigs every year. The transplanted alternate leafed dogwood is two stories high outside the kitchen window, leafing out and preparing white flowers. The two firs that survived being planted outside many Christmases ago are making cones. Rhododendrons, laurels, azaleas and Allegheny minnie-bushes have fat buds.

Last year thriving little twin-leafs (*Jeffersonia diphylla),* multiplied from one I purchased from the propagation program at Monticello years ago, had four lovely blooms on April 10th, three days before Jefferson's actual birthday. Today they have yet to bloom. Maybe they will not do so because last year's labor producing four seed pods exhausted them. I protected the pods from hungry squirrels all summer and when they were ripe, opened them above the slightly alkaline soil prepared for the original plants. This year I found a clump of stems topped by the plant's characteristic oddly shaped leaves as I worked in the garden. What a thrill.

I plucked two soft and translucent red oak leaves. I soon found that I needed the thinnest nib I had to try to catch the delicate veins and tips of the toothed leaves. A photographer might have rendered them better but that method would not allow enough elapsed time to notice three black microscopic gypsy moth caterpillars. One by one they swung down from the adjacent chestnut oak to my drawing paper. They had brief seconds of life before being squished. If only our native birds enjoyed these invasive morsels, but alas, they don't. The three undoubtedly have thousands of siblings waiting to eat the leaves of the patient oaks. But hurrah, rescue is at hand. TWNF and WPOA are prepared and soon the army will be repelled and our forest will be saved from the invaders.

An ever changing yet essentially renewing corner of the Wintergreen forest is being preserved.

Check out
the new MHA website at
http:/wintergreenmha.org



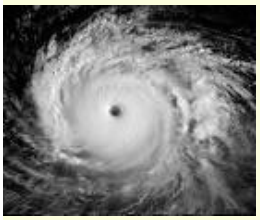
The **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** at the University of Virginia, called (OLLI at UVa), offers classes and activities for adults 50 and better. Our courses are purely for enjoyment. There are no tests, grades, or educational requirements. OLLI at UVa provides the opportunity for you to join your peers in the joy of learning. Our courses, lasting three to six weeks, are held in the daytime in Charlottesville, always in places with convenient free parking.

We will be mailing our printed catalog the last week in May and also distributing them to several Nellysford locations. If you would like to be added to our mailing list and receive our fall 2009 catalog, please email us at **olliuva@virginia.edu** with your name and mailing address or call us at 434-923-3600.

You can always view our online catalog by visiting our Website (**www.olliuva.org**). The online catalog is updated to reflect any date or time changes that occur and will list the courses that are full.

We know you will find our courses interesting and look forward to hearing from you!

The OLLI Office at UVa
Phone: 434-923-3600



40 Years ago this summer HURRICANE CAMILLE hit on August 19-20, 1969

Nelson County was in the path of one of the most devastating natural disasters that the Commonwealth of Virginia had ever experienced. Classified by the National Weather Service as a Category 5 hurricane, Camille came ashore along the Gulf Coast on August 16, causing major destruction in that region.

The deluge that fell on Nelson County three days later came without warning. A rainfall, which began at night, in excess of 25 inches largely within a 5-hour period swept away or buried many miles of roads, bridges, homes, churches and other buildings. 114 people died and 37 remain missing. Population in the county in 1969 was about 12,000, resulting in 1% of the population perishing during the flood. The Davis Creek community had the greatest loss of life.

The damage to the roadways, bridges, and railroads was monumental. Most bridges over the Piney, Rockfish and Tye rivers were destroyed or heavily damaged. Due to road damage, access into the county on the major highways was virtually impossible for several days. The Mennonites and other volunteer organizations as well as the state and federal governments provided valuable recovery services to the citizens of the county.

In 2008, Oakland, the Nelson County Museum of History developed an extensive Camille exhibit. To commemorate the 40th anniversary, the museum is sponsoring a series of stories, photos, videos, poetry, and songs of Hurricane Camille and its aftermath. The series and other exhibits are scheduled at Oakland, located on U.S. 29, 4 miles south of Lovingston, one mile north of Colleen. $5 admission for all events at Oakland, Children 12 and under free. Museum hours are Saturdays 10am to 4pm and Sundays, 1pm to 4pm. For information call 434-263-8400 or www.historicnelson.org.

OAKLAND PROGRAMS

* Saturday, May 16th 1:30 pm
  Music and poetry inspired by Camille

* Saturday, June 20th 1:30 pm
  Camille's impact on the schools and school children

* Saturday, July 18th 1:30pm
  Rebuilding Nelson County

AT NELSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

* Thursday, August 20 7:30pm/Admission free
  A Remembrance of Hurricane Camille

Tuckahoe Update

Our clubhouse continues to get constant use. Folks are doing a great job of keeping the room clean and putting tables/chairs back after they are used -- thank you.

Earlier this year, Alice Faintich organized a group to put together an event for our Tuckahoe Reserve Fund. The team coordinated a Talent Show which involved talent (???) from all over our community. The event was sold out within days and great fun was had by everyone! The event generated $2,010.42. Many, many thanks go out to all of the performers and especially to Alice Faintich, Mary Lee McIntosh, Betsy Fineman, Wayne and Bonnie Jefferson, Ron Turnbull and Sally Wright.

Thanks to the Talent Show, we now have $2,843.42 in our Tuckahoe Reserve Fund. This allows us to start planning the kitchen make-over. The goal is to have a plan in place within the next 3-4 months, then determine budget, schedules, etc. More information to come!

Mary Wolf

Swing for Health

Golf Tournament

Blue Ridge Medical Center announces Swing for Health 2009 – a golf tournament to benefit the center's Rural Health Outreach Program. Once again, Swing for Health will be held at beautiful **Poplar Grove Golf Club** in Amherst on **July 17th**.

The tournament will be the ever-popular Preferred Drive format and there will be a "Putt Like A Tiger" contest before tee-off. Check-in starts at 9 AM. There will be numerous team and individual prizes including the Grand Prize: a free year's membership at Poplar Grove for a hole-in-one on the 17th!

Registration fees include GPS-equipped golf cart, a bucket of practice balls, box lunch and refreshments before the awards ceremonies. For further information call Judy Rendich at 434-361-0362 or email BRMCgolf@aol.com.

This is what the players had to say about Swing for Health 2008:

"Poplar Grove is both breath-taking and challenging."

"The Best-Drive format is a lot more fun than Captain's Choice--every player gets to play their own ball and use their full handicap."

"The most fun I've had at a charity golf event!"

"The in-cart electronic scoreboard was great and added to the drama of the day."

Hole sponsorships, including a team of up to 4 players are available for $500; team registrations are $380, no increase over last year

Call or email today to register for Swing for Health 2009!

THE LINK

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

2009 RENEWAL DUES

2009 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

*** The LINK will be sent electronically to email address above. Saves money/time on printing, postage, labeling, sorting.**