

THE LINK

May 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION

Editor—Marti Szczur

<http://wintergreenmha.org>

Spring has Sprung!



Wintergreen Water Update



The winter offered its challenge with water restrictions and outages on the mountain. With Spring here, WPI and WPOA are working closely with the county and the Nelson County Service Authority (NCSA) to renovate and upgrade our water infrastructure. We are fortunate that Mountain Homesteaders' Christine and Dennis Casey have built a good rapport with George Miller of the NCSA and have been forwarding frequent updates from him about the water infrastructure repairs over the past month. [Kudos to the Caseys!]

Below is an article by Christine Casey, followed by some water-wise suggestions from Mary Wolf.



Mountain Water Issues

By Christine Casey

Water issues are of concern on the mountain. Currently, the Nelson County Service Authority is in the middle of replacing the pressure reducing vaults. There are 21 vaults strategically placed on the mountain that control water pressure. This maintenance requires the temporary loss of water to the particular area being serviced.

Raw water is pumped from Lake Monocan and Stoney Creek through a pumping station located at Peggy's Pinch. This water is pumped to the Compressor building storage tank and from there pumped to the water treatment plant for treatment. The Nelson County Service Authority purchases its raw water from WPI. A newly installed baffle in the clear well will increase that water's contact time with the chlorine as the water flows through the clear well. The treated water in the clear well then is pumped to three Devil's Knob storage tanks.

- 1—Old Devil's Knob tank – 253,000 gallon capacity
- 2—New Devil's Knob tank – 465,000 gallon capacity
- 3—Wintergreen Devil's Knob tank – 253,000 gallon capacity

The new upgrades to our water treatment plant will double the treatment capacity.

This past January 1st weekend experienced record people on the mountain, and the water production of 350 gallons per minute could simply not keep up. One point became evident—a better system of communication was needed to alert homeowners. (We are working on this.)

The Nelson County Service Authority works to repair problems as they arise and plans ahead for upgrades. The renovation of the Pressure Reducing Vaults is an example of the upgrades that have been planned.

Residents on the mountain are to be commended for their water conservation efforts during repair times. Together with the Nelson County Service Authority, we can work to increase communication and keep our water system highly functioning.

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."
Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac, 1746

Excerpt from Wintergreen Valley Association INFORMER newsletter (May 2010) article, "Water—The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly", by Mary Wolf.

Did you know that a leaky faucet that drips one drop every 2 seconds can waste 1000 gallons of water per year? I recently attended a water conservation workshop in Rochester and was amazed by some of the things I learned. We all have the tendency to think water is an unlimited resource. Did you know that less than 2.5% of the earth's water is fresh and of that 2/3 is frozen. This means that less than 1% of the earth's water is accessible for drinking and growing crops. More than 1 billion people in the world do not have access to clean water. In some areas of the world, women spend as much as five hours every day carrying water back to their family. As Americans, we use as much as 100 times more water than some parts of the world. The prediction is that in 16 years, 1.8 billion people will live in regions with severe water scarcity. Some pretty frightening statistics, but what does this mean for us? It means that we need to start thinking about how we use water and find ways (even if they are just little) to conserve water. What can you do?

- Fix those leaky faucets and toilets. One of the biggest problems we face with the part time nature of many of the homes

(Continued on page 4)

2010 MHA BOARD

Horace Brady (2012) 325-7930
President bradywareagle@aol.com

Steve Marianella (2010) 325-2281
Vice-President smsales1@aol.com

Ray Allen (2011) 325-7834
Secretary raygnav@aol.com

Allan Blum (2011) 325-9133
Treasurer allan_blum@yahoo.com

Millie Steele (2013) 325-1092
Social Events Coordinator millsteele@aol.com

Tom Steele (2013) 325-1092
Member twsteele@aol.com

Dennis Casey (2013) 325-7294
Membership Chair dcasey51@verizon.net

Larry Luessen (2013) 325-7864
Member lluessen@verizon.net

Marti Szczur (2010) 325-7164
LINK Editor/Member szczurmar@aol.com

President's Corner**HAPPY SPRING!!!!!!**

What a way to start MHA's Social Calendar!! The "Mardi Gras" Party had a great turnout and many requested Rhett's recipe for the Jambalaya and his own Cajun concoctions. Nine Newcomers attended the "Zodiac / Newcomers" Party and much fun was had by all.

Remember to mark your calendar for our next Party. The Members Only "Shrimp Fest" is on June 12th @ Chestnut Springs Pool & Pavilion @ 5:30 PM. Please RSVP by **June 4th** if attending. Remember your check is your reservation and it costs only \$20.00 P/P, and we provide the beer and all of the other sides.

Note: there will not be a Town Meeting this year during Memorial Day weekend due to all of the resort activities, which includes the Wintergreen Performing Arts Wine Festival @ the Evens Center from noon to 5:30 PM.

And now to clarify our long standing MHA Reservation Policy. All events have a date by which to RSVP (if attending) either by email, voice mail or snail mail, and your check reserves your place. However, we have allowed on occasion that you can pay at the door due to unexpected circumstances, and we understand. Hopefully all of you will try to minimize this as much as possible, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Remember that the new Directory will be published in June and if your 2010 Dues for \$20.00 are not paid, you will not be included.

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 on 325-7585.

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

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

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

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

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

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 at 325-7073

Editor's Note

Some times (not often) I can't think of a thing to say! All the cliches about being glad spring has arrived and the beauty of the mountains are true, but you know that already. I'm fresh out of wise sayings or even funny ones. This is not a good sign for a writer!

I thought about sharing what Joe Spouse and I have been up to over the last few months, but really, it's not that interesting.

Robert Frost once said that "Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it." Hmmm, guess we know in which half I reside today? 😊

Looking forward to seeing you soon and have a Great Spring and upcoming Summer.

Regards,

Horace H. Brady, Jr., MHA President
434-325-7930 or bradywareagle@aol.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR! 2010 Mountain Homesteaders Activities

February 27th — “Mardi Gras” Party (Gumbo/Jambalaya Event)

March 27th — “Zodiac” Party (New Member Party)

June 12th — Shrimp Feast

July 4th — Annual 4th of July Cookout

August 7th — Western “Pork and Boots” Party (Ribs & Barbeque Pork) Members Only

Sept. 11th — Lobster Feast

Sept. 25th—Oktoberfest

Nov 13th—Annual Holiday Party at Wintergreen Skyline Pavilion

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



Please join the Mountain Homesteaders
Association for a

Members-Only

SHRIMP FEAST

WHEN: **SATURDAY, June 12, 2010**
5:30—8 PM

WHERE: Chestnut Springs Park and Pool
(if rain @ Trillum House)

\$20 Per Person (Makes Checks to MHA)

MENU: Shrimp, Potato Salad, Salad, Dessert
Beer and soft drinks provided

RSVP (with check) BY June 4th
(your check is your reservation)

TO: Larry Luessen, Route 1, Box 503, Roseland,
22967 325-7864 or lluessen@verizon.net

Photos from the **Zodiac Party** in March.

Kudos to all the volunteers who decorate, set up the food and drink and clean-up at all our parties. We all appreciate it, and Zodiac party-goers had a wonderful time!



July, Vienna and Wintergreen

Larry Alan Smith, Artistic and Executive Director
Wintergreen Performing Arts



On **July 5**, the 2010 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy will come to life with an extraordinary array of programming that will celebrate the great city of **Vienna** (as in Austria!). There will be nearly 300 performances and events during the 28-day period, and I urge all of you to plan ahead. This year should prove to be one of the most popular seasons ever.

In addition to magnificent music, there will also be dance, theatre, films, lectures, exhibitions and numerous other happenings.

The ticket booklet for the 2010 WSMF will be sent to our mailing list in early May. Please visit the WPA website (www.wintergreenperformingarts.org) if you want a sneak preview. Tickets will go on sale on Monday, May 10 at 9:00 am.

Some events are expected to sell out immediately, including the seven cooking classes, a very special dinner prepared by TV Chef Marco Krainer, the Schubertiade (see below), the concerts at Monticello (see below) and the three world premiere performances of a theatre piece based on a book by composer Michael White. The book is about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and it will be just one of many tributes to the Austrian composer this summer.

The **Schubertiade** will take place on Saturday, July 24 at 8:15 in a beautiful Stoney Creek home. What is a Schubertiade? During Franz Schubert's lifetime, it was a social occasion where some of the composer's friends would gather to hear his music, play games and read poetry. We are going to honor the tradition by including Schubert's



music and some of the other entertaining elements that made those evenings so special. Tenor Paul Sperry (pictured left) will be with us, and he will be joined by four young singers and several Festival musicians. Wine, coffee and dessert will be served. A reservation is required for this event.

Wintergreen Performing Arts is collaborating with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation this year by presenting three concerts at **Monticello** in Charlottesville. On Friday, July 9 the Wintergreen Festival Baroque Orchestra will perform in the beautiful new theatre at the Visitors Center. There will also be concerts featuring six string quartets by Mozart on Thursday, July 22 and Thursday, July 29. The concerts will begin at 7:30 pm, and prior to each concert, boxed dinners will be available starting at 6:00 pm. You will need to reserve if you plan to attend . . . so be sure to read about these events on the WPA website or in the ticket booklet.



www.wintergreenperformingarts.org

July is going to be quite a month! Invite your friends and show them all that Wintergreen has to offer.

(Continued from page 1)

within our community occurs 'inside the meter'; meaning it is the homeowners responsibility, not the Service Authority. You can do several things: Turn off your water at the main coming into your house whenever your home/condo will be vacant. If you do not have a whole house shut-off valve, consider installing one. One large water bill will more than cover the installation cost. Hire one of the local home maintenance companies to check your home monthly. You can find some of these companies by going to wtgpoa.org and clicking on the link for 'Important Phone Numbers'.

- Install a 'Water Flow Leak Detector/Shut-off Valve. This link lists a number of companies carrying these products: <http://www.toolbase.org/TechInventory/TechManufacturers.aspx?ContentDetailID=879>

So, let's all start doing just one or two small things to use less water!

Mary Wolf



ATTENTION!!!

The Free Clinic of Central Virginia in Lynchburg, which partners with the Blue Ridge Medical Center in Lovington to also operate the Nelson Dental Clinic, is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on **Friday, May 14** at the Ivy Hills Course in Forest, VA.

For more information about the Free Clinic itself, please review/visit our website. (www.fccv.net)

THANKS!!!!!!!

Robert 'Bob' Barlow
Executive Director
Free Clinic of Central Virginia, Inc.

ROADRUNNERS Column

A Harmonious Blend of Family and Grapes

By Sylvia Shenk



"In Vino Veritas" – "In Wine There is Truth" - From this observation by the Roman historian, Pliny the Elder, the name of the **Veritas Winery** was born. And this has remained the credo of

both **Andrew and Patricia Hodson**, the owners of this unique winery and farm, nestled into the hills of the Blue Ridge in Afton, Virginia. The focus has remained on the quality of the grape, and only the best fruit is selected for the crush. Patricia has described this focus as "consistently good wine with the correct varietal characteristics". *"Varietal"*, for those Roadrunners among you who, like me, are in need of further qualification, means that the Viognier tastes like a Viognier, and the Sauvignon Blanc tastes like a Sauvignon Blanc, and so on with each of the carefully selected grapes.

But there is another ingredient more than deserving of mention --- and that is *"Family"*. Just as each of the grapes is cultivated for its uniqueness and desirability, each of the family members has taken on a specific responsibility to blend their multi-faceted talents into the running of what is now 50 acres of vines. This family has become closely associated with Wintergreen because of the many visitors to the winery from Wintergreen, including members of both the **Wine Guild** and the **Veritas Wine Club**. In return, their generosity to our Performing Arts events has been remarkable, and they have literally opened their doors and their vineyard to us in all of its glory. And with all of this glorious harmony comes a heart-warming, earthbound tale.

Andrew and Patricia purchased the current land in 1999. These incredible winemakers were not always practicing their current art. They met in 1972 at Nottingham City Hospital in England, where Andrew was a physician and Patricia a nurse. Yes, it was a love at first sight story; they were wed within six months. Although Andrew trained in pediatrics, psychology, and neurology, he practiced neurology for many years. He loved medicine and is currently on the Board for Quality Assurance of Medical Care at the University of Virginia. But both he and Patricia have found a new love in the cultivation of the grape, fortunately for us. Patricia has, from the outset, managed the cultivation and care of the vines. They chose the Charlottesville area

because at the time they had two young daughters, **Chloe and Emily**, and they wanted a culturally rich arena, which Charlottesville certainly provides. The first year of cultivation, 2000, they cultivated 12 acres of grapes; the second year 25 acres; and currently 50 acres. They chose to plant the grapes of wines they liked. Andrew's favorite wine was and is Sauvignon Blanc, but they now have ten different varieties of grapes planted. This includes Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, and Viognier. For this last variety, they received in **2009** a **Bravo** from **Dave McIntyre** of the **Washington Post**, rating it the best wine of the year. This is no small accomplishment and speaks to the excellence of both fruit and technique.

And how is the remainder of the family involved? Patricia's brother is vineyard manager; her sister-in-law is shipping manager. Wines are shipped all over the USA as well as to the UK, as Whole Foods is now shipping their wines to England. Patricia's charming parents reside on the farm and are very much in touch with the daily workings of the vineyard as well as the events that take place on the grounds. Remember the two young daughters who grew up on the vineyard? **Chloe**, the youngest daughter, is the event manager. We have her to thank for planning the incredibly beautiful, delicious, wine-paired meal at the Viennese Ball put on by Wintergreen Performing Arts at Veritas. As for Emily, she is the winemaker par excellence who was written up last month in the **C-Ville News**, a local Charlottesville newspaper, as one of the 25 people who live next to or near you about whom you might not know. **Emily** was named **best woman winemaker of the year**, and she even was invited to Washington, D.C. where she poured wine for both Michelle O'Bama and Hillary Clinton. And she is the mother of two beautiful young girls, to boot.

As a Roadrunner, who wishes to fully experience this unique blend of family and grape, I might suggest that you visit the winery yourself, if you haven't already done so. Perhaps one of the best occasions might be one of the four **Starry Nights** that are held the second Saturday of June, July, August, and September. Bring your lawn chairs, picnics and children if you wish, and listen to the music of each of the four bands that will be playing. You may check www.veritaswines.com website for details. There is no doubt that any encounter with **Veritas** will put you in touch with Patricia's focus, the quality of the grape, and with the family that bonds it to the earth.



'New' Nelson Country Market "Dog Policy" Dogs will no longer be allowed under the tents. They are **welcome to come to the market**, but they must remain **outside the tents**. Thank you helping us maintain safety for all at our market.

City Mouse, Mountain Mouse

by Joan Stemmler



You remember the story of the visits of the country mouse and city mouse to each other's homes. Each felt so out of place in the other's environment that they retreated to their own accustomed places. For Ed and me the experiment of city living had positive consequences, persuading us to rent an unfurnished three room condo for a year. Our daughter gave us some hand-me-down furniture (there's a switch), and a new era of three days here, four days there, has begun. Our car trips to and from town are reduced to one a week, and we realize with pleasure the advantages of both places.

To return to Wintergreen means being back with friends and in a home we love, to breathe the fresh night air, to hear the resident wood thrush on an evening walk. In Charlottesville, yard work is done by others, but Wintergreen has the greatest gardener, nature.

The bloom count around the house is astonishing. In addition to a few domestic ajuga, red azaleas, daffodils, the native wild flowers are beautiful. Eleven big clumps of columbine hang their lovely yellow and red heads on the west side of the house. White spikes of Bishop's cap dot the area around the front porch as do at least three violet-blue wild geraniums. The bell-shaped yellow and pink buds of the Allegheny minnie bushes are opening on the trails; those of the rose and pinxter azaleas are bursting. The size of the smooth rock cress with its

yellowish white drooping blossoms is outstanding this year. After years of survival a twinleaf bought at Monticello has multiplied and spread from the seeds of pods saved from the chipmunks. New striped wintergreen plants grow under the Fraser fir, a Christmas tree transplant. Young pink trillium plants bloom near their parents who only now are reaching up and stretching their magenta leaves. Serviceberry tree fruits are millimeters wide; oak pollen fills the air and maple seed helicopters spiral to the ground. Fecundity plus!

Down in the gorge is a treasury of yellow lady-slippers, bedded in with rattlesnake ferns, bell-worts and white wood anemones. Tiny white petal-like sepals surround a yellow disc: they face the sun look like so many TV dishes lifting up their faces up to attract waves of insect pollinators. Yellow stemless violets and blue ones abound and I wonder if the harbinger of spring, the round-leaved yellow violet, has come and gone already. Have I missed them along with the bloodroots and toothworts?

I think of that old song that goes, "When I'm not near the one I love, I love the one I'm near." The words are a little bit true in regard to living in two places. We hate to leave nature's show at Wintergreen but know that when we drive the 45 miles northeast and walk into our new pad, we will be happy to be within walking distance of library, classes, store, movies, restaurants: all of the conveniences of Charlottesville.

The truth of the matter is though, that I will never really be a "city mouse."



WINTERGREEN FESTIVAL OF WINES & FOOD May 30th noon-5:30pm

Presented by Wintergreen Performing Arts with wine tastings from Virginia's very best wineries.

Enjoy an afternoon of wine, jazz, light fare and cool mountain air at the Evans Center on the mountain.

Admission: \$20, food tastings additional.

For details, go to website <http://www.wintergreenperformingarts.org>

The Wintergreen Nature Foundation
presents
17th Annual Sara Ott Memorial Golf Classic!
Friday, September 10, 2010

Again this year our tournament features:

- **Hole-in-one automobiles**
- **The Million Dollar Shootout**
- **Dinner under the tent**
- **Extraordinary live auction**

SAVE THE DATE
Mark this important date on your calendar!
Start putting your foursomes together now so you don't miss any of the action!

We will be offering many exceptional prizes to the winners, plus a guaranteed fun time!

We have expanded the ladies nine at Devil's Knob!
This year the ladies nine will include both Wintergreen and non-Wintergreen lady golfers.

This will be held in the early afternoon of September 10.



MHA Editor's Picks from TWNF Calendar

(check out details and other events at <http://www.twnf.org>)

Don't forget to attend the **Spring Wildflower Symposium**, which is always an educational and fun event. This year's date is **May 14—16th**.

Plan now to join The Wintergreen Nature Foundation on a 3-day, 2-night vacation to **Southwestern Virginia, June 15-17**. Sounds like loads of fun with a "perfect combination of active adventures and sit-down relaxing and entertainment. You'll enjoy a hike around Mount Rogers guided by a local naturalist, an easy bike ride down the old railway bed of the Virginia Creeper, a behind-the-scenes tour of and a play in the historic Barter Theatre, shopping in local boutiques, exploring historic downtown Abigdon, Virginia, and amazing food!"

Doug Coleman, TWNF Director, is leading a trip to the **Rocky Mountains** from **July 5th to 11th**. Focus will be on wildflowers of the Rockies and will also touch on the cultural history of the region. Doug has been teaching Central Rockies flora to teachers and park service staff every summer for awhile, so you'll be getting the low-down from an expert.



SUNDAY, June 13 noon to 4:00 pm BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

at Skylark Farm (2 miles north of Parkway & Rt 56 near Vesuvius)

Buffet lunch with reservations, picnic at Round Top panorama or by the lake. Music, exhibits, souvenir shop. Program featuring remarks by Virginia architect Carlton Abbott, son of Stanley Abbott, designer of the Parkway, and representatives of National Park Service, Friends of Blue Ridge Parkway, Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, Oakland Museum and Rockfish Valley Foundation. \$5 donation.

For more info: <http://blueridgeparkway75.org>



BEAR SMART NEWS

Excerpt from the WPOA Bear Policy

<http://www.wtqpoa.org/bearpolicy.pdf>

"Nuisance behavior of the bears at Wintergreen became a serious issue over the Summer of 2007 Spring of 2008. This trained behavior, to visit open dumpsters, bird feeders, and garbage left in non-bear proof containers led to the removal and euthanization of several of our black bear during that period. In an effort to prevent training of bears in these types of bad behavior the Wintergreen Property Owners Association Board of Directors with the support and advise of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is hereby reminding everyone that bird feeding with seed feeders, suet feeders, or nectar feeders is considered to be intentionally feeding bears. Such actions are a violation of WPOA policy as well as Virginia Law (4VAC 15-40-282) and can result in you receiving a citation by area game wardens. To protect our bears from harm and to protect your property, please adhere to the following:

- 1) No bird feeding of any kind from **April 1st to December 1st**
- 2) No outside garbage unless it is stored in a bear proof container

We all want to share our part of the forest with our natural neighbors. Please help keep them and your property safe by exercising these simple measures."



COMMUNITY CALENDAR IN THE WORKS

Russell Otis' staff at WPOA is amazing.

They have come up with an incredible calendar solution for us. We will now be able to allow our larger organizations within the community to manage their own calendar, allowing all of the events to be viewed in a central location. This will be a great help when planning events.

To find the calendar, go to wtqpoa.org and click on the green link which says WPOA Calendar. Currently the schedule for the usage of Tuckahoe clubhouse is listed. Eventually, each organization's calendar events will display in different colors.

John Harrington will work with the various organizations to get them oriented and using the new calendar tool. Presently we are hoping to have schedules posted for WPOA, WPI, Mountain Homesteaders, Valley Association, Fire and Rescue, BOGGS, Performing Arts, Nature Foundation, and Tuckahoe Clubhouse.

If you think we are missing a large organization, please contact John Harrington, Mary Wolf or Theresa Harris (325 - 8530).

Many thanks to Russell and his team!

Mary Wolf



2010 Ski Season Report

by Vera Jones

There is no doubt that we had a wonderful ski season this year. We had nearly 100 inches of natural snow and

most of it stayed on the ground for weeks. On successive Saturdays in February we broke our record in the number of skiers. It is also true that, some of the time, the amount of snow in the surrounding area prevented people from getting here. On one Saturday three buses had to cancel because of snow conditions at their starting point. The really good news is that, overall, we served more people for less money and the credit for that goes directly to the management team and the resort staff. We should all be extremely proud and grateful for their hard work this year.

One popular change from last year is the flexible lift ticket. The 4 or 8-hour ticket is counted from the time it is purchased. On Saturdays and Holidays, only the 8-hour ticket is available, but every other day one can buy a 4-hour ticket starting when it is purchased. It is very convenient for skiers, especially those coming from a distance, and it spreads out the crowds for ticket lines, rental lines and the restaurants as well. Last year we sold 2,000 half-day tickets; this year we sold 23,000! And we still sold 98,000 8-hour tickets.

We installed a new computerized rental system, which Jay Roberts, Vice President of Resort Services, says will pay for itself in a relatively short time. Rental equipment is scanned when it goes out and scanned again when it comes in. If it is not returned, the credit card is charged for each day it is not returned. The

system also retains all the personal information needed for renting equipment. No more forms to be filled out manually. A returning renter can move more quickly through the rental line because their information remains in our computers and is readily available.

There is renewed emphasis on safety. Patrols in bright yellow jackets with a cross on the back are in evidence on all slopes. They slow down speeders and are helpful in any way necessary. Accidents attended by ski patrol this year showed a 15% decline in relation to our total number of paid skiers

Tubing at the Plunge is always popular and had a good season. Our new Zip line is catching on, with sessions selling out on warmer days. Ridgley's Fun Park is a little down this year. It is usually a great treat for little ones who don't have snow in their own back yard to play in. Guess who had plenty of snow in the backyard this year? Almost everyone!!

February 12th, Wintergreen skiers gathered at the top of Eagles Swoop to honor the memory of Claire Owen. It was a beautiful day. The sky was blue. The snow was perfect. She would have loved it. But she wouldn't have put up with standing around very long. She would have been off, down Acorn, her favorite slope, and most of us would have had to hustle to keep up. Our "Senior Skier" always led the way.

We salute the management team and resort staff. We also salute the road crew for keeping the roads clear and safe under really unusual amounts of snow. They often worked through the night. Consequently, our roads were cleared more quickly than most roads in the county. Aren't we lucky?? Hats off to our hard working crews!!

MARK THE DATE--Stoney Creek YARD SALE and ANTIQUE FAIR

SATURDAY --- JUNE 12, 2010 --- 8:00 - 3:00

(To benefit the Tuckahoe Club House Kitchen Project)

Food, games and more at the Tuckahoe Club House and grounds

NEEDED:

Help with food and games or other creative ideas. Please call the general chairman -- Louis Calderone (361-2226)

Antique Dealers to rent booth spaces. Also, Individuals or Groups to rent space to sell their own items. (Rent fees go to Tuckahoe Club House Kitchen project). Please call Vicki Keenan (361-2464) or Nancy McIntyre (361-1214)

Tangible Donations: Furniture, Antiques, golf equipment, household items (no clothing) for the **WPOA yard sale** (all proceeds will go toward the Tuckahoe Club House Kitchen project). Call Bonnie Jefferson (361-1779)

GREAT WAY TO SPRING CLEAN YOUR HOUSE, ATTIC, BASEMENT AND YARD!

LET'S ALL PITCH IN, PITCH OUT AND GET THIS KITCHEN FINISHED

Encouraging News on the Mountain for Real Estate Sales

The first four months of this year brings some encouraging news for real estate sales on Wintergreen Mountain. 21 detached home sales closed in the first four months, compared to only 8 in 2009 during the same period. Our average sales prices this year is \$447,690 and computes to \$197/square foot. In 2009, our average price was higher at \$471,300, but at \$189 sq/ft. Sales this year have been discounting at 6.8% of sales price vs 10.8% last year. We currently have 92 homes listed for sale on the mountain.

Condo sales this year are also stronger versus a year ago. In 2009, we sold 7 condos vs 17 sold this year in the same period. Average sales price this year is \$197,994 vs \$203,214 last year. All sizes of condos are up except 1 bedroom units (2 sold both years). In 2010, we have sold 12 two-bedroom units vs 4 last year, and 3 sales of 3/4 bedroom units vs 1 last year. Average cost per sq/ft is down from \$212 last year to \$185 this year. There are 124 condos listed currently, a near record number.

Lot sales remain quite stagnant with only 3 sales this year vs 2 last year. There are currently 68 on the market.

In summary, although our inventory of homes/condos/lots are all still very high, as prices have come down sales have increased this year. A great winter for skiing probably didn't hurt, but my feeling is that buyers are finally getting more comfortable with the economy improving. Job security seems to be better, interest rates are still incredibly good and choices are abundant — an ideal situation for the serious buyer. Many of the purchasers this year had been looking for many months, some over a year, and have finally realized values are excellent and the "bottom" may have finally passed.

For more details of sales in your condo complex or neighborhood, call your local Realtor, or feel free to contact me. Here's hoping the rest of 2010 continues to be a good year for Wintergreen home sales !

Your Mountain Realtor,

Steve Marianella
smsales1@aol.com

ROCKFISH VALLEY FOUNDATION

www.rockfishvalley.org

GRAND DISCOVERY DAYS JUNE 11 – 13

Arranged by the Rockfish Valley Foundation

Check website for specific details on all the venues, events, updates, times, additional activities and directions. Find suggestions on how to make the most of the Grand Discovery Days.

You're Invited to Reach Out for Rural Health

**Friday, May 21st at Wintergreen Winery
6:30—9:30pm**

We cordially invite you to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Blue Ridge Medical Center at the 12th annual spring-time fundraiser to benefit the Rural Health Outreach Program.

Enjoy the toe-tapping Afro-Cuban, Latin, Caribbean rhythms of Kevin Davis and Ban Caribe! Savor the award-winning Spicy and Sweet and Vinegar flavors of BBQ Connection! (scrumptious vegetarian fare will be offered too.)

Also featuring a selection of outstanding wines from Wintergreen Winery (cash bar) and thirst quenching beers from Blue Mountain Brewery and Devils Backbone (no charge).

And if that isn't enough, there will be raffles and a live auction.

Starting to sound like FUN?

Admission: \$50/person

For more information, go to <http://brmedical.tumblr.com/post/420599238/2010rhopspring>



COMMUNITY SQUARE DANCE GRAB YOUR PARTNER

www.nelsonfund.org

Sponsored by the Rockfish Valley Foundation to benefit the Nelson County Community Fund.

JUNE 11, 2010

7:30 pm to 10:30 pm at the

Rockfish Valley Community Center

- \$25 per person, \$40 per couple and \$10 discount if you were born in Nelson County.
- No experience required; we all learn together. ENERGY FOOD, CASH BAR WITH WINE & BEER and surprise treats !!! 50/50 raffle; prize for best dressed guest couple

RESERVATIONS: TELEPHONE 434 226 0078

****THIS IS A HOT TICKET SO RESERVE EARLY****

Send checks, payable to Nelson County Community Fund to: **Nelson County Community Fund, P.O. Box 253, Nellysford Virginia 22958**



Have you ever wondered what lies beyond those beautiful gates and fences along Route 22 in Eastern Albemarle County?

Five Historic Albemarle County Farms To Open For Public Tours on June 19th

Members of the public will have an opportunity to tour five farm estates in Albemarle County, as well as the Keswick Hunt Club and Grace Episcopal Church, on Saturday, **June 19, 2010** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tours are sponsored by Grace Episcopal Church, which is located near the farms in the Cismont/Keswick area. Grace Church will offer visitors a country fair as well as tours of the historic church and grounds.

Horses are stabled at each of the five estates, which are Castalia, East Belmont, Cismont Manor Farm, Linden Lane and Belcort Farm. The farm tour event, entitled *Beyond the Gates*, provides a rare opportunity to visit a selection of historic sites near Charlottesville. Highlights of the tour include a carriage exhibition, a dressage demonstration, presentation of the Keswick Fox Hounds, an exhibition by Paso Fino horses, and other events.

Tickets for the *Beyond the Gates* historic farm tour cost \$15 in advance until June 7, or \$20 per individual thereafter, and may be purchased at Grace Church on June 19. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free. Each ticket allows admission to all seven sites and all exhibits and demonstrations. The farm tour will take place regardless of weather conditions. Proceeds will support the church's numerous outreach efforts. For more information, check out www.gracefarmtour.org

OLLI at UVA comes to Staunton

Starting in September 2010, more than a dozen OLLI at UVA courses will be available in **downtown Staunton** at The R. R. Smith Center for History and Art, 20 South New Street. These Valley offerings, like their counterparts, will be exciting daytime classes with convenient, free parking. Course specifics will appear in OLLI's Fall 2010 Catalog, which will be online by June 1.

To learn more, contact the OLLI at UVA office by e-mail at olliuva@virginia.edu or by phone at 434- 923-3600;

Out-of-towners may call the toll-free number (1-877-861-9207).

Already an OLLI member? Considered one of their group trips?

- **Bermuda Cruise in June:** Sailing June 12 - 17, 2010.
- **Princess Alaska Inside Passage Cruise:** Sailing August 8 - 15, 2010
- **Limerick and Dublin, Ireland** - Nov 7-14, 2010



To stay in the mountain news loop, be sure to subscribe to the **Wintergreen Friends Bulletin Board**. The Wintergreen Friends Bulletin Board is an e-mail version of what you might find on the wall in a community center, grocery store, or other place where people pass frequently. The idea is to provide to everyone in Wintergreen and surrounding areas a way to ask for help, get a recommendation, give away items no longer needed, etc.

To submit a request or recommendation or ask to be put on distribution list, send note to WintergreenFriends@Gmail.com. When you send us a request or a recommendation, try to make it as concise as possible and please don't forget to include your name and e-mail address and/or phone number in the text of your e-mail. Thanks to Barbara Marker, Ellen Hampton and Ginger Fries for maintaining this useful e-service.



May 15 and 16 Mountain vs Valley Golf Shootout

Contact Steve Marianella for details
smsales1@aol.com or 434-325-2281

Please Don't Wear Out My Shoes
by Christine Casey

My chrome is gleaming
My hood doth shine,
Riding down the mountain
Life is mighty fine.

My gears are tweaked
My brake shoes new,
To glide on down
This mountain with you.

So why oh why,
Must you ride
Your brake?
You have lower gears
Use them for Pete's sake.

Round mountain corners
Without fears,
Shift into
Those lower gears.

High gears reek
Of an acrid smell.
Use your lower gears
And smell the Lindens.

Please don't wear
Out my new shoes!



Hi, I'm Chloe the Camel!
Come visit me and my
animal friends at **Moun-
tainside Petting Farm.**

Open Fridays –Sundays
from 10-5.

Great place for a visit with
grandkids. Bring a picnic
and relax among new land-
scaping and water feature.

On Blundell Hollow Rd (Rt 633) off of Rt 151.
<http://mountainsidepettingfarm.com/>

SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST MURDER MYSTERY
August 19 or 20

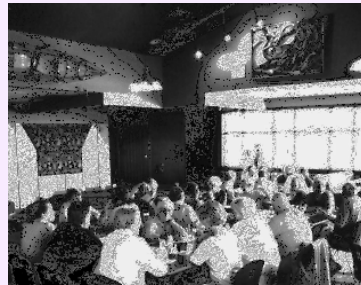
"LUST FOR WINE AND MURDER"

Odette Henderson is back in creative mode. She has put together another Murder Mystery involving most of the same actors from two years ago. The last play was sold out in almost two days, and we ended up having a second evening, which also sold out quickly. To give you an idea on what it's all about and to whet your appetite, here's how she has set the mood of the play:

"The enormous wine cellar of the Underwood Mansion is brightly lit and richly decorated and it is the scene of a congenial gathering of family and friends. Meeting and greeting at the door are Ralph Rottingrape and his wife, Tiny Bubbles. As the guests lift their glasses to toast their hosts and the new vintage of Pinot Noir, a small tremor shakes the mansion. The guests are unfazed -- either they did not feel the earthquake or they just did not want to be bothered. Until...the old wooden floor buckled, revealing the well preserved body of former vineyard owner, Barry Underwood. Now much shaken, the guests cast their eyes about, watching each others' expressions, and wondering who was responsible for this vintage murder mystery."

Proceeds from first evening go to the Nelson County Community Fund and the second evening to the Tuckahoe Club House Fund. Time and location - TBD. *Mary Wolf*

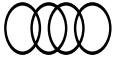
Don't forget **First Tuesdays** at the The Edge, if you are on the mountain on (you guessed it) the first Tuesday of the month. No reservations—just if you are not in the mood to cook and in the mood for company, show up at The Edge around 6ish. There may be a big group, like pictured above in April or a small group. Yet another way to get to enjoy old and new mountain friends.



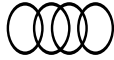
**LOOKING FOR
A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN!!!**

The Rescue Squad and Fire Department are always looking for new volunteers. 24 hours per month are required, and all training is provided in-house. What a great way to help out your community!

This season is already breaking the backs of our volunteers. They are screaming for help. Any interests can be directed to me at 325-8536 or CurtisSheets@gmail.com



THE LINK



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



2010 RENEWAL DUES

2010 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 normally be posted on website with an email announcing new editions. If you are computer challenged or living with low-speed internet connection, then we'll snail mail you a paper copy.