

THE LINK

November 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE
MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION

Editor—Marti Szczur

<http://wintergreenmha.org>

'Tis the Season for Thanking and Reflecting

Connecting With the Land

by Kathy Knowles

As you walk along the paths of Wintergreen, enjoying the rustle of falling leaves and the brilliant colors now fading from the sugar maples, try putting your imagination to work on how this land must have looked 6000 years ago.

Imagine your path as a well-worn passage among trees and along streams used by countless generations of native people who lived in our woods during summer and fall months from about 9000 years before present days until approximately 300 years ago. Rough shelters built in protected saddles near the streams served as home to these strong, capable groups of families. Wild deer, squirrels, fish and birds were abundant sources of food along with the fruits and berries of native plants and nuts from the chestnut and oak forest.

Tool-making was a skill taught in every generation, using the hard quartzite stone available in nearby mountains (now known as Torrey Ridge and St. Mary's Wilderness, near Sherando Lake.) This stone was hard to work and unforgiving of mistakes made by young practitioners of the craft, but the stone tools were essential for hunting, cutting, scraping, hole-punching and the myriad of other tasks necessary for lives lived outdoors year-round. Every time a tool or point was crafted, small flakes of the stone littered the ground, where they remained until discovered in recent years. As the American frontier moved through the Blue Ridge in the 1700's, the native populations were pushed out of the mountains, migrating west ahead of the European settlers. It is our good fortune at Wintergreen that these generations of "Indians," our predecessors on this land, left remnants of their lives for us to discover.

Throughout the stream valleys, terraces and rare flat land on these mountaintops, a group of Wintergreen volunteers have spent the past ten years surveying, documenting and preserving the heritage of the native people who lived here for thousands of years before us. The **Wintergreen Archaeological Survey**, supported by the Wintergreen Nature Foundation and led by Dr. Carole Nash of James Madison University was developed to oversee this work.

Thanks to generous gifts from several Wintergreen residents, the Nature Foundation has completed the first phase of a major exhibit to explain and to showcase the

tools, projectile points, ornaments and pottery that have been found on both resort and private property at Wintergreen. After you have used your imagination to travel back 6000 years, take a walk from your home to the nearest woods using well-worn paths used by 360 *generations* of mountain residents. Then, visit our new exhibit at the Nature Foundation, **Connecting With the Land**, to learn about those who might have lived on the very site of your Wintergreen home, thousands of years ago.



Wintergreen Archaeological Survey Exhibit Wins Michael A. Hoffman Award!!!!



Years of field work and documentation of sixty archaeological sites on Wintergreen property and intensive testing of five of these sites by Wintergreen volunteers, JMU professor Dr. Carole Nash and Nature Foundation staff members have been rewarded by the *Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA)*. The Michael Allen Hoffman Award was presented to TWNF Director Doug Coleman and exhibit chairman Kathy Knowles at the annual meeting of the Virginia Archaeological Society. The award was based on the continuing efforts of TWNF to increase awareness of the remarkable density of prehistoric archaeological sites at Wintergreen and the development of ways to raise awareness through school programs, the Winter Lecture Series, support for a JMU undergraduate honors thesis, five field studies institutes, three Wildflower Weekend programs, active support of the Archeological Technician Certification Program and the development of a major exhibit highlighting our research.

Please support the Nature Foundation in its ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the rich cultural heritage present right in our own backyards!

<http://www.twnf.org>

2010 MHA BOARD

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President's Corner**GREETINGS TO ALL!**

This year we had tremendous parties, which were coordinated by Millie Steele. A big thank you to Millie and all of her tremendous helpers. Keep up the good work. Plus extra thanks to Larry Luessen for coordinating this year's party reservations.

Millie has planned new events for next year, so please check Page 3 for the specific dates. Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss any of them.

Reminder that December is MHA renewal time – fill out forms with your 2011 dues for \$20.00 with address and email updates. **Please note, that if you want a mailed copy of the LINK, there will be an additional \$10.00 charge** (to cover extra cost to print, handle, and mail.). The updated renewal forms will be available at the Devils Knob mail box kiosk before the Thanksgiving Holiday and can be found on Page 11 of this LINK. Please don't be left out of next year's directory.

In case you did not know, at the mountain's Fire Station 1, there is an outside air hose located in the back on the wall if you ever need air for your tires 24/7, - but you will need your own gauge.

If you would like to serve on the MHA Board for 2011, please contact me.

Have a great Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season !

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

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

Thank God, the mid-term election is over! I'm so tired of having Sarah Palin, Barack Obama and all their friends call me all the time! Alas, the curse of being an Independent is everyone wants your attention. Well, whatever your political leanings, let's hope our leaders figure out a way to work together! Maybe they should all come to Wintergreen for a retreat. The fresh air, natural beauty of the environs, and reflective aura of the mountain would spellbound them into a cooperative (or at least courteous) mood. Okay, okay, it was just a dream.

Speaking of Wintergreen, has this not been a fabulous Fall? I've been enjoying it from the top and below. Last night's sunset from our mountain loft left me speechless (which doesn't happen too often.) And, with my horse all healthy again, I've been enjoying the mountains from a valley view atop my trusty steed. Life really doesn't get any better.

Hope everyone has a fabulous rest of 2010 enjoying the holidays with their families and friends.

Marti Szczur (szczurmar@aol.com)



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR!
2011 Mountain Homesteaders Activities**

- February 12th — Valentine Party
- March 26th — “March Madness” Party (New Member Party)
- April 30 — Garden Party
- June 25 — Cookout or Shrimp Feast
- August 13th — Mustache Party
- Sept. 10th — Lobster Feast
- Sept. 24th—Oktoberfest
- TBD —Annual Holiday Party

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



On September 10th, the Mountain Women sponsored a

WPOA and WPI Candidate Forum for the second year in a row. The meetings was open to everyone—including men! Thanks to the candidates for attending and sharing their thoughts, ideas, and perspectives. And, extra kudos to Sylvia Sheppard for coordinating the meeting and being an incredible time master during the forum.



The success of the Mountain Womens’ initiative has lead to both WPOA and WPI agreeing to sponsor a pre-election Candidate Forum in subsequent years.

And, congrats to newly elected Mountain Homesteader’s Martha Misker (WPOA) and John Claman (WPI)!

Wintergreen Mountain House Signs

Do you see house signs that make you smile as you drive and/or walk around the mountain. I captured a few of my favorites on our daily dog walk. Send me your favorites at szczurmar@aol.com!



**ATTENTION! A CHANGE
to 2011 Membership Dues**

As both an encouragement and fairness to folks who e-read and/or download The LINK from the Wintergreen Mountain Homesteader Website, the 2011 dues will remain at \$20 a year.

To those of you who really, really prefer to get The LINK as a paper document mailed to your home, the 2011 dues will be \$30 (the additional \$10 offsets the cost of printing, handling and mailing.)

In December, send in the form on the back page with your dues. Also, please use this form to update any name/address information, **particularly email addresses**, so we can keep you posted on mountain news.

The French Connection ... Notes from the Harveys in Paris

From Stu ... on September 9th

Politics: We inadvertently joined a giant rally last Sunday, protesting Sarkozy's efforts, among other things, to ...

- (1) raise the retirement age from 60 to 62. (Their Social Security system is running out of money, just as ours is, only faster.)
- (2) raise the work week to 38 hours from 35. (The impact on wine drinking is obvious and unacceptable.)
- (3) deport Romanian gypsies back to Romania. I thought the main job of a gypsy was to pick pockets, but I found they can also hand out literature and march--important skills in France.

To support this effort, the unions have called a general strike today, closing airports, stopping busses, trains, the metro and anything else that moves. This has inspired another grand march—this one on an avenue near our apartment that leads to the Bastille, nice to have a historic review—200 years worth.

Housing: By pure dumb luck, our apartment faces a courtyard rather than the street. Since every male over the age of 3 drives a scooter or motorcycle that makes a noise of 100DB or more, there is no such thing as a quiet street. At least you can hear them coming before you get run over.

Food: No bad meals--good to excellent at fair (not cheap) prices

Other: There are fewer dogs and less *merde* on the sidewalks than last time we were here ... maybe influence of the many Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants and their eating habits?

From Stu ... on September 19th

Church: Sunday Mass was followed by a reception--Kirs and snacks for all on the portico just outside the church, followed by déjeuner (lunch) --pot luck (tire du sac). Plenty of food and wine--not exactly like St Marys—all you can drink and eat.

[Pat gives more detail -- “We have about a 5 minute walk to where we go to church. After Mass, instead of serving coffee they served wine, and as much as you want. After that was a pot luck dinner, with, you guessed it, more red wine. In short, you might say we found our church.”]

Touring: We went to Monet's Giverny today. We had been there a few years ago, but too late in the season to see good flower colors. Today was different--great display, absolutely spectacular. The trip out on the train was also interesting—mostly good scenes along the Seine, but also interspersed with industrial junk, factories and oil storage tanks—just like the Jersey turnpike. When we arrived at Vernon, the town near Giverny, we had our choice of transportation to Giverny - bus, walk, bike. We chose bike. They say “you never forget how to ride a bike.”

Amnesia set in—Pat crashed after 6 yards, and I wobbled for a considerable distance. After considerable pain, we both made it.

On the way back, we got a demonstration of racial profiling,

French style. The poor guy across the aisle from us—probably an Algerian, was thoroughly interrogated and his papers checked by 3 conductors and 4 cops, all simultaneously. Reminded me of the 6 cop cars at the corner of Rt 151 and the ski barn during our VA wine festival.

Sarkozy was successful today in expelling 1000 Romanian gypsies. The president of the EU strongly objected, so as compensation, the gypsies were allowed 4 hours on the Metro to pickpocket as many victims as possible.

From Pat ... on October 26

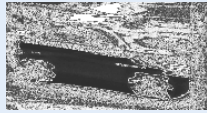
Paris is amazing. We've been here more than 20 times in the past and just cannot see enough. Aside from the museums, and all the culture and delicious food, the most unique experience was last Sunday. There is a 65 year old author, a real character, and he invites about 60 people for dinner every Sunday. The food was decent, and the wine was okay. The guests were interesting and from all over the world. It was a chance for us to mingle and meet. Stu enjoyed meeting (of course) a wine guy, and I met this gentleman from Berkeley, who is staying in his ex-wife's apartment for a year. He is also on the Board (of Regents) at Berkeley, and I told him I have a friend who also is on the Board. I described her, and he knows her well. (It is a small world after all.) Miss you all.

We've enjoyed many Wintergreen visitors, as well as some family members. The Laulers were the first to arrive, then Perrelli's with the Battaglia's, then came Maria and Paul Spence, then David and Carolyn Benn. We are expecting to see our granddaughter who is studying in Rome, and bringing 7 of her friends. The Caseys were the latest Wintergreeners to visit. We welcome anyone who might be coming to Paris!

Harvey Sightings by the Caseys

“Dennis and I were in Paris this past October and checked in with Pat and Stu Harvey. We shared a delicious dinner at Le Taxi Jaune. Pat and Stu are happily enjoying the French food, drinking fine wines from the different wineries in France, and having great fun.”





Speed, Speeders and Enforcement

by Wintergreen Police Chief Stan Olah

Speed – the act or state of moving rapidly... **Speeder** - a person or thing that speeds; esp., a motorist who drives faster than is safe or legal... *definitions from Webster's New World Dictionary.*

Speeders have become a topic of discussion lately, and we all need to be aware of a few key points regarding enforcement and the act of speeding. First, let's talk about speeding. It is an act or action that requires no intent to commit. It is an act that is not really different on one highway or the other, except in its relationship to the legal posted speed limit, whether the posted limits are 25 or 65, ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit is considered the same. Neither requires "intent to speed" to get convicted and fined in a court of law. Second, it adds points to your driving record or maybe we should say it takes away any good points you have earned on your driving record. Third, it will most likely increase your insurance rates at some time in the future. Fourth, the faster you speed the higher the court fines, the higher the number of good points taken away and probably the higher the insurance rate. We have all heard the saying that "speed kills" so don't forget that one.

So, now let's talk about the enforcement of speed limits and speeders in our community. First, speeding can be self-enforced by every owner, employee, guest or contractor. Just don't speed. Second, the need to speed is in reality a very rare occasion or justifiable; we just think we need to hurry on our way. Third, radar is a great way for the police to monitor everyone's speed and catch those speeding. Radar calculates your speed every 2/10 of a second and displays it to the officer numerically with red numbers on the radar screen. As an example, at 60 mph you are moving at

88 feet per second and the radar has checked your speed once for every 17.6 feet you have traveled. Pretty quick. The average person reacts in between one-half and three quarters of a second which means the radar still checked your speed 2 to 3 times before you realized you have been had. Fourth, statistics show the majority of speeders are owners within the community. The Wintergreen Police Department attempts to police the community in the manner desired by the community as a whole; therefore the officers are stopping those who speed, generally giving a warning for first-time violations. A second stop for speeding in a 12-month period may translate into a speeding ticket being issued.

In an attempt to clarify the speed limits within the community of Wintergreen all roads within have speed limits of **25 mph** with three exceptions. One, the mountain community is all 25 mph except on Wintergreen Drive between Beech Grove Road/Rt. 664 and the first residential road, Fortunes Ridge Drive. The second road is in the valley and is that section of Monocan Drive from Rt. 151 to Napier Lane. The third road is Rt 613 or Rodes Valley Drive from Rt 151 to Roberts Ridge Lane. The Wintergreen Police Department has jurisdiction on all of these.

We must remember we all live and work within a resort community. Hundreds of guests are invited to visit and vacation here, contractors build homes, employees serve our many needs and all are an integral part of the community. Rest assured the police department will respond to any concerns you may have. We are here to serve you 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Call us to report speeding in your area, to report any activity that may seem suspicious, unusual, out of place or just not right. Dial 911 or call 325-1106 for 24 hours service.

IMPORTANT—TO GET WATER UPDATES Please update your e-mail information with the Nelson County Service Authority by filling out the form enclosed with your water bill. Jennifer Fitzgerald at ... jfitzgerald@nelsoncountyserviceauthority.com will handle the distribution list for water updates. [Note: Wintergreen Mountain is out of this water update business now that NSA has stepped up their communication capability.]



A dozen or so Mountain Homesteaders donned orange vests, gathered trash bags, and took to the highway on October 5th. Wintergreen Resort is the "adoptee" of the stretch of Rt 250 between Rockfish Gap and Rt 151.

Been thinking about going to the Canadians Rockies in 2011? On November 19 at 6:00 PM, head over to the **Wintergreen Nature Foundation** for *The Banff and Jasper Dinner Theater*. Join Liz Salas for an evening of fun, food and photography as she takes you on a photographic journey through the Rockies and tells you about her plans for a 2011 summer group trip. Bring a covered dish; wine and dessert provided. \$8 members, \$12 non-members. Must register before Wednesday, November 17. Call 325-7451

Thanks to those who turned out to clean up the highway. Luckily the weather cooperated, and it was a beautiful day to pick up trash.

As a "thank you", all trash picker-uppers enjoyed a pizza and beer lunch and got \$20s of Wintergreen bucks.

Think about volunteering next year ... the more participants, the quicker it goes, and the sooner we get to eat lunch and spend our Wintergreen dollars.



My Inner Child At Play

by Joan Stemmler



Rain and wind the night before had brought showers of leaves from sky to earth. Dry leaves and fallen acorns covered the streets. I have seen the spectacle eighteen years now and it is always different. This mid-October, the autumn process of slowing the water supply to the leaves has ended the production of chlorophyll and manufacture of sugar in the leaves a little later than usual. But now, the sugar has gone to the tree's roots for the winter. The green has almost disappeared, revealing the inherent reds and yellows of maples, brown tannins of oaks, pale tans of beeches. The cells attaching leaf to twig have shriveled.

The day was beautiful; the air fresh. The sky filled with blue, gray and white clouds. Seventeen items were on my To-Do List. The most usual one was: "Find your trifocals!" and the most mysterious was: "Find your long black skirt!" I abandoned the list and went for a walk in rain-washed Wintergreen, forgetting for a while mysterious losses and waiting chores!

The two-mile walk was up, as always. No matter which way I go, it's up Split Rock and Den Tree Lane, down or up Shamokin Springs Trail, and then up some more. A car passed my trudging figure, then backed up. It was my friend; and I was glad to talk a while, catching my breath. I turned down onto Timber Camp, up past the Gibb's old house and the pool. Up the last steep incline

and onto Blue Ridge Drive. All down from here.

Going down past the Nature Preserve I accidentally kicked an acorn. The newly paved road has been contoured so that the rain last night made streams clearing the leaves in its meanderings towards the edges. My acorn kept rolling along Shamokin Springs Trail in one of those cleared areas. I watched it until it got stuck in some oak leaves. I kicked it free and walked companionably beside it. It veered to the left and I ran to block it with one of my grandson's soccer moves; sent it back towards the yellow mid-line. Uh oh, it crossed the line and headed to the rough gravel of the road repair. I found it and knocked it clear. But I kicked too hard and lost it.

The next acorn didn't roll as well so I removed its tip and then it and I strolled and rolled along together. It's nice to have company. An oak leaf snagged it every once in a while but I freed it up, legally using my hands. What a relaxing way to spend a half mile. Sort of like another Wintergreen sport involving chasing a little ball. I kicked the same acorn all the way home until my adult self looked at my child self and said: *Okay, you played enough; time to get back to business.* That's okay. All refreshed, I was ready to go inside and face that list. I even found my glasses, . . . but how can one lose a skirt?

Interested in Medicine + History + the Shenandoah Valley?

The NIH National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine Division's Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program (AMMP) is pleased to announce the launch of a new digital texts site "Physicians' Lives in the Shenandoah Valley," a collection of 828 letters dating between 1786-1907. It is drawn from the Henkel Family Letters collection covering more than a century of life in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Check it out at ...

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/digicolls/henkel/index.html>

Lust for Wine and Murder in Nellysford



The Wintergreen Murder Mystery players came together again this year under the leadership of Odette Henderson. This year's Murder Mystery was held at the Monocan Building on August 19th and 20th and was sold out in advance for both nights. Judging by the continuous laughter, I think it is fairly safe to say that great fun was had by all!

Like any fund raiser, a lot of people worked very hard to pull this off. Many thanks go to the following people: Ann Ashton, Joan Bonheyo, George Bonheyo, Cindy Byron, Jackie Castro, Luis Castro, Carol Dworin, Elliot Dworin, Ed Fries, Sharon Gress, Jerry Gress, Elaine Guidry, Bruce Henderson, Mary Anne Kelley, Angi Lindquist, Bob Lindquist, Betty Reed, Greg Robertson, Elizabeth Upshur, Patti Wiggins and Judy Winnenburg.

We also owe a special thanks to Vitos and Stoney Creek Bar and Grill for the food donations. The meals were terrific and this allowed us to keep our costs to a minimum, which means we raised more money! Many thanks also to everyone who made donations to the silent auction.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks to the Murder Mystery Players and Odette Henderson for making this special event a reality.

We were able to donate \$5861.52 to the Nelson County Community Fund for the proceeds from Thursday night and \$6112.52 was given to the Tuckahoe Clubhouse Fund from the proceeds on Friday .

'Tis the Season! (and . . . it isn't even July!!)

*Larry Alan Smith, Artistic and Executive Director
Wintergreen Performing Arts*

As most of you know, WPA operates on a twelve-month basis. Planning for each Wintergreen Summer Music Festival takes about two years, and in addition to the work related to the Festival, we have plenty of other things to keep us busy! December 2010 will be no exception. On Sunday, December 5th, *Your Table is Ready* will take place at the Tuckahoe Clubhouse in Stoney Creek. On Sunday, December 12th, a holiday tradition will continue with *A Blue Ridge Christmas: The Virginia Consort*. So . . . two great events . . . just one week apart.

Many Wintergreen residents have attended the varied and inviting Events Fair activities that provide such incredible support for Wintergreen Performing Arts. The December 5th event promises to be an extremely festive afternoon at the perfect time of year. From 1-5 pm, you will have an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and browse among decorated dining tables. This is your opportunity to glean some creative ideas for your own holidays and other festive occasions. Please note: There will be vendors (including holiday greens sales). The entrance fee: \$20 person.



On December 12th at 4 pm, the Virginia Consort will once again appear at the Rockfish Presbyterian Church in Nellysford. Tickets to this performance are \$30 per person, and patrons are strongly advised to obtain tickets as soon as possible since the annual event sells out rather quickly. It isn't officially the holiday season in the Rockfish Valley until the Virginia Consort has been to town!

Information about both events can be obtained by phoning WPA at (434) 325-8292 or by visiting the WPA website at www.wintergreenperformingarts.org.

Finally . . . have you marked your calendars? The 2011 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival will begin on July 6th and end on August 7th.

Wintergreen Cat Conscious Council Update

submitted by Ellen English

Trapping and "fixing" efforts have expanded to Stoney Creek. Several homeless cats have been adopted as outdoor pets and are being provided with food and shelters--BIG thanks to those who have "stepped up" to give these deserving animals a chance to have a safer, healthier life. We are looking for 6 to 8 willing souls to be part of a feeding crew for one little colony. This would involve each person setting out food and fresh water once a week. If you cannot commit to once a week, you can be part of the "back up" crew for regular feeders when they're out of town or tied up. Please contact Ellen English at 434-325-2012 or rosa-ellen@verizon.net. For more info on CCC visit www.ccc-wtg.cfsites.org.

Good at PR? There are so very many gorgeous, loving cats languishing at the shelter, in need of foster homes and forever homes. Please consider **becoming an advocate for ONE cat** by fostering it and/or promoting it to the public. Many of their photos can be downloaded from the Petfinders website (http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelter_id=VA99), and Almost Home volunteer Cora Pennell can help you fill in their background info to create a poster/flyer. This poster can then be emailed to friends and family, hung on bulletin boards and vets' offices, etc. whenever you're out running errands (in Waynesboro, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, wherever.) Just keep copies in your car to show far and wide. Many hands make light work, and this is something you can help with from home, on the go and at your own pace. ONE AT A TIME is a great way to make a difference. Contact Cora at meadowlarkom@cyberwind.net or 434-361-0207.



Meet Wolfie, one of many adoptable cats at Almost Home Center. Don't you want to be his or one of his buddy's Advocate?



Resident Sommeliers at Wintergreen

by Roadrunner Sylvia Shenk



Wine is the answer. What's the question? Did you know that some of our nature-loving, golf and tennis activists, performing arts gurus are actually wine connoisseurs at heart—so much so that they have added wine cellars to their charming abodes? *Question #1: Who is the instigator par excellence of this phenomenon? The answer is **Stu Harvey**, who is enhancing this 40 plus year avocation by residing in Paris for the year. He began a monthly wine/dinner club at Wintergreen, including a hard core group of 100, who participate enthusiastically, in these catered dinners with a Malbec, Bourdeaux, CA. Cabernet, or the like as the theme of the evening. The question in this case is *Which food will pair best with the selected wine?* The multiple courses and toasts of the evening answer that question. In addition he has founded a Men's Wine Core (Sorry, ladies) which meets monthly at Veritas Winery for blind tasting of wines. A pair of gentlemen select and research a wine type, be it a Pinot Noir, Merlot, Riesling, and the attending connoisseurs, also in pairs, bring an example of the wine of choice. Each pair selects first, second, and third place for color, bouquet, and taste.*

Stu's personal wine cellar at Wintergreen is his third. He built it himself from the wood obtained at a sawmill in Shipman near Lovington, and it includes 1000-1300 bottles of wine, arranged in 140 bins. He uses a computer website to organize his wines; there is natural, not artificial climate control, and he collects from all over the world. His typical vacation, when not skiing, is visiting vineyards globally. *Australian Shiraz, Bordeaux, California Cabernet are all answers to the question. Question: What is your favorite wine?* Stu rotates on his favorite. His answer deals with the here and now...the wine of today.

Who are the other select few whose trained taste buds inspire them to collect wines with a passion? These include **Dan Brown, John and Joyce Clayman, Bob and Vicki Keenan, Bob and Angie Lindquist, Ned and Nancy Martin, Paul Spence, and Mary Wolf.** After interviewing and visiting some of their spectacular wine cellars, I am both overwhelmed and charmed by the amount of care, research, and varying perspectives that are part and parcel to this all-encompassing hobby. I stand corrected because "hobby" does not adequately describe the devotion and developed skill that goes into their collecting.

Kay Pfaltz is the answer to *Who stirred the pot for Vicki and Bob Keenan to become interested in French, Portuguese, European wines?* Kay writes a monthly column in the Nelson County Life publication and gives wine classes in the valley at Basic Necessities. The Keenans started their collection with Virginia wines, but after taking the wine classes, they found that they just had too many bottles of wine to continue storing them in an over-stuffed closet; hence, they turned their furnace room into a wine cellar. They both love collecting wines of all

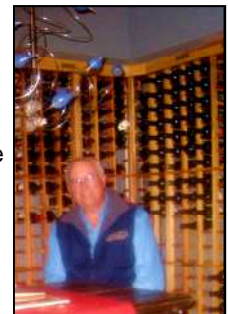
types, almost like stamp collecting, including California cabs, Pinot Noir from Oregon, French reds from the Loire and French white Burgundies. They would also like to learn about Spanish wines. *Who likes to open a really good wine even for soup and sandwich?* **Bob.** *Who prefers to share a fine bottle of wine with friends and fine food?* **Vicki**



Who is a chef first and wine collector for the purpose of pairing the wine with the meal? **Bob Lindquist.** Bob might choose a Moscato d'Asti as a desert wine to accompany his delectable peach compote or a bold Zinfandel to accompany his barbecue. His first love is

cooking, having been taught to cook by his mom. He finds the French wines to be very food friendly, and he often chooses them to accomplish his ultimate goal of complimenting his gourmet dish, perhaps a blended French Bordeaux. He chooses wines of both quality and value. *The answer is The Phantom. Question: Which Bogle, CA blended red cabernet is Bob's favorite? And which Bogle Merlot is good with chocolate?* *Answer: Petite Sirah.* His month and ½ old wine cellar is enhanced by the antiques of his wife Angie. They include a fabulous marble bust, Louis XIV style, three solid mahogany doors, a custom-designed arch of cultured stones with perfectly fitted pieces, and an antique oil painting of what else but grapes of the vine. *What is Bob's prediction after a few more years?* "Virginia wines will be THE chosen wine to accompany food." He mentions Linden Winery for their Sauvignon Blanc and Veritas for their Petit Bordeaux. Check out the book What to Drink with What You Eat that Bob recommends highly.

Who was inspired to collect wines by his wife Joyce's grandmother of Italian birth and her uncle, Dominico Giovannini, who crushed grapes in his basement? *Answer: John Clayman.* He, too, likes good wine with food and began collecting wine from his world wide travels. His stellar wine cellar reflects this as it is oriented around countries and regions. Naturally, he began with wines from Italy; he collects from Sicily, Sardenia, Piedmont, Tuscany, Veneto. From France, he prefers the Rhone and Bordeaux. His favorites, however, are the heavy Cabernets from sunny California although he also mentioned South African, Spanish, Argentinean, and Chilean Cabs. From Virginia, he prefers some of the whites, mentioning the Petit Verdot Chardonnay and the Sauvignon Blanc from Veritas Winery. He does feel that Boursville Winery does an excellent job on the Cab Franc grapes. John likes to collect wines that will age well. This sometimes involves a rather high price, and he often pur-



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ROCKFISH VALLEY FOUNDATION NEWS

by Peter Agelasto

Please celebrate with us the 5th anniversary of the Foundation. The vision was birthed about the same time ELK HILL was placed in a restrictive conservation easement. The State of Virginia granted the corporate charter in August 2005; the ribbon cutting for the Rockfish Valley Trail was September 2005 and the public non-profit status under 5013C was issued in August 2006 by the IRS.

As you may know the Foundation set an 18 month goal to raise \$50,000 and this is not the best of times to undertake that. With all that has been accomplished there is still a compelling need for additional gifts of time, talent and treasure to build CAPACITY (i.e., having enough volunteers to undertake projects and programs, administration and organization and also includes money from grants and donations to fuel its projects and programs.) Donations received will be allocated by the Trustees. The annual Board Meeting of October 30 was facilitated by Karen Norman, a volunteer from Charlottesville introduced to us from the Center for Non Profit Excellence. She was guided and assisted in the process by Fred Abbey and Craig Cooper. Alice Faintich continues working to put in order the administrative affairs and volunteer organization. The master plan process with Water Street Studio under the leadership of Hunter McCardle, the community fund drive and a number of projects and programs have been identified as top priority. As CAPACITY is increased, the Foundation can pursue its community mission with success.

We hope you have enjoyed the content on our websites: www.rockfishvalley.org and www.nelsonscenicloop.com which are designed for both resident and visitor to foster an appreciation of the natural history, culture and resources of Nelson County and our community. More content is available to add but we lack CAPACITY to add it. We need volunteers to work with our website developer.

Volunteer Susan Elliott is continuing the work of Jesus Najar, who began the application to create the South Rockfish Rural Historic District. We have established a committee, but need to grow its capacity and help her. We need volunteers for that.

We are working to create a structured volunteer organization. Last year we celebrated the work of over 60 volunteers. We have projects to involve dozens of more volunteers.

We hope you have enjoyed the miles of trails and the materials available at the Rockfish Trail kiosk. This is an area where CAPACITY needs to be added. The trails need to be maintained, invasives eradicated, native plants installed, vines cleared. That takes volunteers. Guides for geology, birding, botany and Hurricane Camille are needed. The new geology trail will require guides for walks as do the birding walks. In 2011 we will continue work on the botany trail and guides will be needed for that. The Kite Festival and the Star Watch will happen, if there is CAPACITY. With completion of the Master Plan, the projects and plans for the next 5 years will be clearly identified. We hope you will join in helping the Rockfish Valley Foundation grow as a community resource.

One last word about CAPACITY. At this time of year please consider a contribution that will build CAPACITY for non-profit organizations in Nelson County. They need support. They include not only the Rockfish Valley Foundation, but also the Wintergreen Performing Arts, Oakland Museum, The Wintergreen Nature Foundation, the Rockfish Valley Community Center, the Fire and Rescue Stations; to name just a few. In addition this is a very important year to make a gift to the Nelson County Community Fund. Best wishes to all and MANY THANKS to all our current volunteers and generous donors who are helping to build CAPACITY in the Nelson County community.

If you have any questions, please ask one of the trustees of the Foundation. They are Chip Morgan, Hank Gibb, Paul Davis, Michael Lachance, Russ Reid, Chris Gensic, Jim Halley, Sharon Hudson, Joe Prueher and Waite Rawls, and representing the Agelasto Family: Betsy and Peter Agelasto and sons Peter and Parker.

Rockfish Valley Foundation info@rockfishvalley.org
434 361-1296

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chases a case to a case and ½ at a time. But he is thoroughly enjoying every minute of his collecting. This is clear from the glimmer in his eye and smile on his face as he walks into his wine cellar.

Questions: Have I wetted your appetites? Are you salivating? Find out more by attending the Wintergreen Wine Festivals: the International Wine Festival in September and the Virginia Wine Festival in June. Answer: For now, Roadrunners, how about imbibing a good wine with friends to keep warm as we are engulfed in this chilly Autumn weather?



In December, we can begin feeding our feathered friends for the winter months. If you want a book that offers a wealth of knowledge detailing our birds with fantastic pictures, then consider getting a copy of Wintergreener resident

Marshall Faintich's book, "A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen" He'll be selling and signing at the WPA *Your Table Is Ready* Event on December 5, 2010, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m at Tuckahoe Building.



BEAR SMART NEWS

Submitted by Al Crannis

Bob Scott, Chairman of the Wintergreen Bear Smart Council gave an update on the progress of the program at the recent 2010 WPOA annual meeting. He reported that since the inception of the program at Wintergreen in 2008, the number of "bear incidents" at the Resort has decreased by over 80%, and property damage associated with those incidents has decreased by over 90%! These results show the program has benefitted property owners, visitors, and our bear friends, and is the result of community cooperation from property owners, Wintergreen Police Department, and other Resort organizations helping to keep the Bear Smart program visible within our community.

With the black bear population increasing all over Virginia (including Wintergreen), we'll need to maintain this visibility and awareness. One area of concern is with Condo property owners and visitors who, perhaps, feel that their bird feeders are high enough that bears won't be attracted by them, or can't reach them. Bears are extremely agile, and can scale seemingly impossible heights to reach food. Bob showed slides of feeders still in use at Wintergreen during the April 1-December 1 restriction period. An effort to remind Condo owners of this WPOA policy, and request their support, has been undertaken. Hopefully, we'll continue to see more acceptance of, and adherence to, this policy.

Remember to notify the Police Department of any bear problems on your property.

Tuckahoe Clubhouse Update

submitted by Mary Wolf

This will be my last update for the newsletter, since I am going off the WPOA Board this year. It has truly been a joy working on Tuckahoe and experiencing the amazing community efforts at Wintergreen!

In summary, over the past three years, we have been able to add a deck on the back of the building and also completely redo the kitchen. We spent \$9,000 on the deck and \$16,000 on the kitchen. We have been able to pay for all of this through community volunteers and special events. After paying for the kitchen, we have \$2,500 left in our building fund.

There have been many creative and hardworking members of our community who made this happen. It would be impossible to list everyone, but I want to simply say thank you to all who helped in any way! I also wanted to say a special thank you to the Wintergreen Valley Association for a \$1,000 donation every year for the past three years.

If you want to use Tuckahoe for a private event, check the online calendar at wtgpoa.org. Click on the button for the Tuckahoe and Pools Calendar. This will let you find dates which are available for your event. Then, call Theresa Harris (325-8530) to schedule Tuckahoe (there is a \$75 charge).

As part of the kitchen remodeling, we have added 120 plates/bowls, 140 wine glasses, 140 knives/forks/spoons and a wide variety of serving utensils, bowls, pots/pans, etc. We also have 19 black tablecloths. If you rent Tuckahoe, you can use the kitchen supplies for an additional \$25. Odette Henderson will meet you, give you a key and explain the procedures for assuring that everything is returned to its location clean and in good condition.

Editor's note: Thanks to Mary Wolf for leading this effort. And, remember, mountain residents are welcome to use Tuckahoe for your events ... it's only a 15 minute drive away.

The Mountain Proprietor's Battle

by Christine Casey



Scurrying squirrels
Scampering over the ground.

While chestnut chipmunks
Hide acorn mounds.

Little fuzzy field mice
Hide underground.

Scratching in the attic
Not a welcome sound.

Please go away!
To another place you have found.

Please don't gnaw
Don't make me pound

Your little head and body
Once they are found.

My home is MY castle
Please get your own!

USELESS WORD FACTS

- Of all the words in the English language, the word 'set' has the most definitions.
- "Almost" is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order.
- "Rhythm" is the longest English word without a vowel.
- "Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made by using only the letters on one row of the keyboard.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."

To stay in the mountain news loop, be sure to subscribe to the **Wintergreen Friends Bulletin Board.**

To submit a request or recommendation or ask to be put on distribution list, send note to WintergreenFriends@Gmail.com. When you send 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.

**2011 WINTERGREEN MOUNTAIN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION DUES
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

FAMILY NAME _____ FIRST NAMES _____

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

WTG 911 ADDRESS _____ WTG PHONE _____

HOME / MAILING ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE () _____ FAX NUMBER () _____

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS _____

2nd EMAIL ADDRESS (will also receive MHA e-announcements) _____

_____ Do not include our email in the directory

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

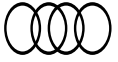
_____ If you live at Wintergreen part of the year, but also have another primary mailing address, check here and provide us with a calendar and 2nd address.

**Please complete the above and return with
a check for \$20 (or \$30 if requesting paper copy of the newsletter) for one year to:**

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

2011 dues are due by December 31, 2010!

(Why not just stop what you are doing right now, go write a check, and send off today? ☺)



THE LINK



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

