



Natural Area News

A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation, Volume 23, No. 2

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ICF's Landscape Plan Approved by County and City

by Diana Foster

Both the County of Albemarle Board of Supervisors and Charlottesville City Council have given the Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF) full permission to begin implementation of our [Landscape Plan](#) as presented to them by **Diana Foster** on behalf of the ICF earlier this year. In 2016, the ICF welcomed the services of renowned landscape architects and long-time ICF members **Susan Nelson** and **Warren Byrd** to create a landscape plan to address issues of concern about visitor experience and safety in the most heavily used areas of Ivy Creek Natural Area and historic River View Farm.

Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville own the ICNA and River View Farm. ICF manages the property in partnership with the two jurisdictions. Upon our presenting the plan to the directors of the county and city parks departments, they agreed that the plan is well thought out, addresses real issues of concern, and offers visionary solutions that can be implemented in a logical sequence.

Both groups applauded ICF for its management of 219 acres of land that protect a public drinking water resource, managing more than six miles of hiking trails, refurbishing a historic African American barn, building an education building used by more than 40 partner organizations, and providing natural and cultural history education programs to the public. In fact, it was mutually agreed that ICF is the

only organization in the region providing such programming at little to no cost in either a city or a county park.

Several aspects of the plan, such as roadwork, will require extensive engineering studies, cost analyses, cooperation among multiple parties, and inclusion in long-range budgets. We are in active communication with all parties about these; however, projects like these move very slowly through city



and county bureaucratic hoops and funding cycles. Other aspects of the plan can be implemented more easily using the talents, skills, and sweat labor of ICF volunteers. We are working in partnership with parks department staff on these.

One of our first tangible projects is to improve visitor experience at the information kiosk. We are currently assessing the existing kiosk and collecting ideas on how

to make it better. We will soon be looking for volunteers with experience in the following areas: museum display, signage and graphic design, architecture and landscape architecture, engineering, equipment for shallow excavation or carrying heavy materials, lumber or building materials, construction or carpentry, and dedicated funding. To volunteer ideas, talents, or skills, please contact Diana Foster at dfoster@newventure.com.

Ivy Creek Foundation Prepares for New Executive Director

As we notified you in June, Tatyanna Patten, executive director of the Ivy Creek Foundation, has moved on to seek other opportunities. We thank Tat for her many contributions to the Foundation and wish her the best.

Until a new ED is in place, the office is in the capable hands of **Rochelle Garwood** (ICF Board member) and

Bruce Gatling-Austin, education coordinator. You will find Rochelle in the office Monday through Thursday 9:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

We are making progress on our search for a new executive director. Having engaged **Amanda Moxham** from Moxie Force Consulting to review our roles, responsibilities and processes,

we have a new job description for a full-time executive director to help us navigate some exciting changes in Ivy Creek's future. Very soon, we will actively begin our search. We will notify our members and partners, and hope that you will pass along the information to anyone you think may be interested in the position.

Marilyn Smith, ICF Board President

Ivy Creek Trains 47 “Voices” Teachers

by Marilyn Smith

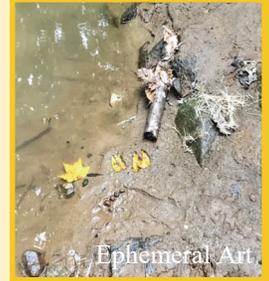
In preparation for the fall program with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Virginia, “Voices from the Land” workshops were held in June and July to train Ivy Creek and Master Naturalist volunteers as well as area classroom educators. Adults working in small teams created ephemeral art along Martin’s Branch, wrote poems about their experience, and finally performed those poems for the class. Along the way, **Erik Mollenhauer** from the Monarch Teacher Network provided tools and tips which gave inspiration and instilled confidence.

Kris Mollenhauer joined us for the second workshop and contributed valuable insights on teaching in the classroom. Participants left with new friends and a broadened community. A lot of fun was had by all. Here are some comments we received:

“I’ve already used it personally on my own children (5 and 7 years old). We visited Ivy Creek four times after the workshop and created art. I could not tear them away. The way in which they collaborated and learned how to participate together was special.”

“I will use ‘Voices’ training to get students to get comfortable with people they may not know. I will use it with my four sons.”

“Thank you for a great experience of art and friendship in nature. I am excited about the opportunity that the children in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Virginia will have to gain this experience I look forward to hearing the children’s voices and learning from them as they participate in the ‘Voices’ project this fall.”



Ephemeral Art

In total we gained 47 “Voices” trainers. Thirty of those participants will help Ivy Creek and Rivanna Master



Naturalists administer the fall program with the Boys and Girls Club. Several more will bring “Voices” to their classrooms. When hiking the trails at Ivy Creek Natural Area, be on the alert for ephemeral art projects, but they do disappear quickly. (See photo.)



Ivy Creek Foundation

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Great Outdoor Provision Company Becomes a Corporate Friend

Great Outdoor Provision Company was founded in 1972 and is a specialty outdoor retailer based in North Carolina, with nine stores throughout North Carolina and Virginia filled with gear and clothing for life outside, including one located in Barracks Road Shopping Plaza. Great Outdoor Provision Co. is committed to personalized retail and encourages consumers to try on, compare and contrast, get fitted, touch and feel product, and interact with staff who know and go outdoors. We encourage all of our members to support our corporate friends. Three levels of sponsorship are available to those who wish to become Corporate Friends, beginning with an annual donation of \$500, which includes the opportunity for free use of our Educational Building and promotion in ICF publications. Anyone interested may contact Marilyn Smith, ICF board president.



Fall 2017 Ivy Talks

Free. Come early to the Education Building as seating is limited. Thanks to **Christine Myers** and her committee for their work in creating this year's great offerings!



Virginia Bears: Forest, Field, and Front Porch

Sun., Sept. 10 at 2 pm. **David Kocka**, district wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will share his expertise in managing our local bear population. The author of *Bear With Me, My Deer*, an account of his adventures while

working with the agency, he will teach us about the habits and behaviors of our local bear population, share humorous and sober accounts of interactions with bears, and offer suggestions about how to live with bears in our midst. A native Virginian, Kocka has worked as a wildlife biologist for over 30 years and is currently responsible for the implementation of wildlife habitat and populations over six counties in northwestern Virginia. He has been on technical committees in the development and subsequent revisions of Virginia's first Black Bear and Deer Management Plans and worked cooperatively with federal agencies and local governments on trying to minimize wildlife/human interactions in both private and public settings.

The Genius of Birds

Sun., Oct. 8 at 2 pm. Acclaimed science and nature writer **Jennifer Ackerman** delves into cutting-edge research on the newly discovered brilliance of birds, revealing the science of their brains and behaviors. Jennifer's illustrated talk will explore how birds make and use their own sophisticated tools, solve complex problems, navigate to places they've never been, demonstrate astonishing feats of memory, craft artistic creations, negotiate their social world, and communicate in ways that resemble language.



Leaf, Blossom, Seed: A Brush with Nature

Sun., Nov. 12 at 2 pm. Botanical artist and illustrator from Charlottesville, **Lara Call Gastinger** will seek to inspire you with a presentation of her field journals, illustrations for the *Flora of Virginia Project*, and her recent botanical watercolor paintings. We will examine how the native flora of this area changes through the seasons and how an artist documents plants with watercolors. Lara was the chief illustrator for the *Flora of Virginia Project* after she received her master's degree from Virginia Tech in Plant



Ecology. She was awarded a gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society garden show in London and her work has been in several national and international traveling exhibits and catalogs. Her painting was accepted into the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and she is represented by Susan Frei Nathan's Fine Works on Paper.

ICF Annual Meeting and "RiverWebs" Film Friday, Sept. 15 at 7 pm.

Join us at the Annual Meeting on Friday, Sept. 15, from 7 to 9 pm, for our traditional business meeting including election of board members followed by a viewing of "RiverWebs," an award-winning documentary on river ecosystems and the science that explores them, produced by Freshwaters Illustrated. The film is a true story about life, data, science, and streams. See riverwebs.org for more information. There will be popcorn and snacks and an opportunity to see old friends and meet new members. Space is limited to 65 on a first come, first seated basis.

CVBA and Beekeeping Essentials

Featured Partner Organization

We have featured Central Virginia Beekeepers Association (CVBA) in the past, but never as a partner organization. A community-based group, CVBA encourages and supports beekeeping in Central Virginia by helping beginning beekeepers and providing mentorship and community outreach. The club meets at the Ivy Creek Education Building on the first Thursday of the month from March through October. At this time of year, CVBA does demonstrations at county fairs, where local honey is judged using a point-value system based on a beekeeper's presentation and other marketing aspects. For example, honey is measured for its moisture content and for the absence of foreign matter or crystals.

CVBA does its best to educate people on how to keep bees. Ever since the 1980s, when a mite came to the US and jumped hosts to the honey bee, bees have required constant attention. Since then, people have had to KEEP bees, not just HAVE bees. Over 90 percent of the feral colonies are gone, primarily due to the mite. Swarms used to be able to survive on their own, but today the average "wild" swarm lasts about 15 months or less. Nationwide, there has been a general loss of colonies, but in the most recent year losses decreased. Unfortunately, losses were greater in Virginia due in part to the early warm weather in February, which caused bees to be active when there were no food sources (flowers).

All are invited to the **meeting of CVBA on Sept. 7 at 7 pm**, where

Keith Tignor, state apiarist, will introduce the Sept. 9 Mite-a-Thon, a national effort to collect data on mite infestation and to visualize *varroa* infestations in honey bee colonies across North America within a one week window. (See <http://pollinator.org/miteathon>) Keith will discuss sampling for mite loads and pollinator protection efforts.

Bees that hatch in the fall will live five months because they fly less than bees that hatch in the spring. Bees only fly when the temperature is above 58 degrees, so "summer bees" literally wear themselves out in about six weeks. Because fall is a critical time for beekeepers, we interviewed local beekeeper **Karen Hall**, who manages observation hives at the barn in Ivy Creek Natural Area and the Discovery Museum located in downtown Charlottesville, as well as 12 to 15 hives in northern Albemarle. Karen and **Ken Hall** are members of the CVBA and the Virginia State Master Beekeeping Program. They are committed to educational outreach and teach a variety of courses, seminars, and information sessions on beekeeping and honeybees throughout the Charlottesville area.

Karen Hall's dedication to bees and to ICNA is outstanding. She is present at our demonstration hive in the barn for nearly all field tours, and she maintains the hive on a regular basis. During summer drought, flowers do not bloom. Our hive requires regular feeding now, as the local nectar flow goes from the end of March through



June, so Karen comes in every other day to feed the colony sugar water or supplement their food with honey frames from her own hives.

Karen explains how important it is to monitor the health of a colony: "Poor beekeepers can be worse than no beekeepers, because their hives are a good place for mites to grow and spread." Karen says that the larvae look different if the hive is sick. A keeper will need to ask, "Do you see mites? Is the queen laying appropriately? Do they have enough honey?" The average production per hive is roughly 100 pounds of honey, so a rule of thumb is to remove only 35 pounds of honey from a hive for human consumption and leave the rest for the hive to eat over winter.

Is beekeeping profitable? Karen explains that commercial keepers do not make money in honey production, but in pollination services. They move hives in trucks up the Atlantic Coast as crops flower, but in February about 80 percent of the commercial hives are in California to support almond production. There are fewer commercial beekeepers today, down about half, but hobbyists have increased. Karen urges bee hobbyists to join a beekeeping club like CVBA: "Our dues are \$5 a year. All beekeeping is local, a 2- to 3-mile radius. To have someone to compare notes with will make a much better beekeeper."

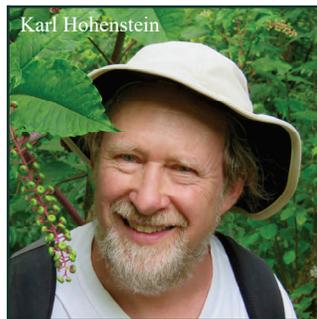
The ICF Archives Get New Level of Protection

The Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF) Archives Task Force received a professional recommendation by volunteer **Ana Marie Liddell** to obtain fire- and water-resistant filing cabinets to house and protect the records and documents of both the ICF and Riverview Farm. These cabinets are quite expensive, but working together Board and Education Committee members **Alice Cannon** and **Lorna Werntz** found special funding for the cabinets. Through a generous donation from **Mrs. Til Purnell**, full funding has already been received in honor of her late husband, **Lewis Purnell**. The archives will be called *The Lewis “Skip” Morgan Purnell Archives of the Ivy Creek Foundation*, reflecting Mr. Purnell’s passionate pursuit of archiving, especially for the State of Delaware. Our sincere thanks go out to Mrs. Purnell.

Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Karl Hohenstein **Buildings and Grounds**

Karl Hohenstein is leaving an indelible but soft imprint on Ivy Creek through his maintenance of the Ivy Creek Natural Area’s (ICNA’s) 75 benches and 10 bridges and his work to restore our trails. Describing himself as a “mystic,” Karl approaches the land of Ivy Creek with great thoughtfulness.



Beginning his work for ICNA as a “stealth” fixer, repairing benches as he explored the trails as a visitor, Karl realized that he would do well to connect with others in making improvements, so he joined our Grounds Committee. In January Karl led the reconstruction of the School Trail bridge, a project that especially pleased Program Coordinator Bruce Gatling-Austin because it left no debris in our natural area. Karl has joined other volunteers as they complete the “Wayfinding Project,” repainting and positioning juncture posts and markers, and installing more.

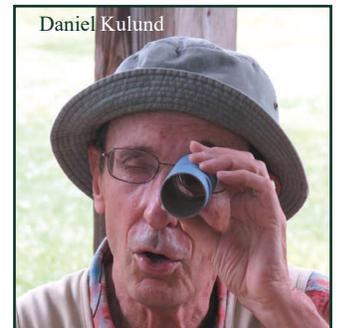
In his service Karl regularly walks our trails, sensing when and where he needs to replace a water bar, repair a bench, or restore a marker. His spiritual connection to Ivy Creek has led him to perceive his work as “attunement and response” to what the land needs, an attempt to keep the “delicate balance between human activity and natural process.” He is most attracted to the “deep woods silences of the Orange Trail” and early morning and late evening views of wildlife on the Reservoir. After graduating from Cornell University, he built and lived in a yurt for nearly a decade. He writes, “My work in whatever form it took over the years has always had a focus that placed me in intimate connection with the land, and that

connection is essential to my well-being, my capacity to give and to create.”

Daniel Kulund **Leading Historic Barn Tours and** **“CountryMotos Walks with Dan”**

Dan Kulund has been a very active volunteer lately, leading both Ivy Creek barn tours and “Walks with Dan.” He retired from the Air Force six years ago in Northern Virginia. Two years ago, he and his wife returned to Charlottesville where he reports, “I’ve happily had the opportunity to recreate some of what was great fun in the military and afterwards.”

The Historic Barn Tour Dan leads is patterned after tours he led at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. The “CountryMotos Walks with Dan” resemble walks he led in Old Town and Alexandria parks and features Motos — useful movements that you can weave into an ordinary hike — like those he developed as Air Force Chief of Health Promotion and a Research Professor of Public Health at George Washington University. Dan writes, “I also call upon ideas gleaned from schoolyard walks for the Alexandria Public Schools and Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities to augment our tours for elementary school children at Ivy Creek.”



Dan particularly enjoys the Saturday morning Native Plant Walks at Ivy Creek, and his favorite trail is the White Trail with its beech forest and a “sit-spot” overlooking Martin’s Branch.

Ivy Creek Foundation
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Ivy Creek Fall Walks, Tours, and Training

See our website calendar for more details: <http://ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar/>

Barn & Farm History Hours

Saturdays and Sundays: 2-4 pm.



Walks With Dan

Tuesdays: Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, at 9 am. Saturdays: Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11 at 9 am.

First Saturday Bird Walks

Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, 7:30 am
Join Monticello Bird Club members for early morning walks.

Little Naturalists

Mondays: Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, at 10 am. Thursdays: Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, at 10 am.

Native Plant Walks

Saturdays: Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, at 9 am. Free! Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot. Co-sponsored by the Jefferson Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

Historic Barn Tours

Saturdays: Sept. 23, Oct. 28, at 10 am. Dan Kulund explores the history of our barn, its architecture, and life on the farm. Dr. Kulund formerly led Historic Building Tours at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Meet in the barn from 10 to 11 am.

Volunteer Guide Training

Tuesdays: Sept. 5 through Oct. 24, at 9:30 am.

Barn Docent Training

Saturdays: Sept. 2, Oct. 7, at 10 am.

Volunteer Work Days

Saturdays: Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 25, at 9 am. Thursday: Oct. 12 at 9 am.