



Natural Area News

A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation, Volume 22, No. 1

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Beekeepers — “Honey Extraction 101”

Thurs., June 2, 7 pm, Central Virginia Beekeepers Association invites you to learn the basics of honey extraction so you can maximize your honey production and minimize the work. We will also be going over the use of the club's extractor. If you wish to borrow the extractor, you will want to attend this session.

First Fridays Under the Stars

Fri., June 3, 8 pm, Charlottesville Astronomical Society — Learn about the stars and planets and then view them. Meet in the Education Bldg. Use our telescopes. Free!

First Saturday Bird Walks

June 4, 7:30 am, led by **Jim Nix.**

July 2, 7:30 am, led by **Doug Rogers.**

Aug. 6, 7:30 am, led by **Jenny Gaden.**

Fall 2016 Tree Steward Training Class

Attend twelve 3-hour classes on tree roots, identification, biology, selecting-planting-and-caring for trees, pruning, diseases, and more. Includes field trips.

Sept. 6 to Nov 22, from 9 am to noon, with the first two classes starting at 8:30 am. Registration begins **June 1.** Email catsclass2016@yahoo.com.



Native Plant Walks

Sat., June 18, 9 am, Enjoy the early summer wildflowers, including milkweeds, and learn about their fascinating partnerships with pollinators. **Cinder Stanton** will lead.

Sat., July 16 and Aug. 20, 9 am, Ferns and late summer blooms.

Ivy Creek Seasonal Talks & Walks

Native Shrub and Vine Walk, Sun., June 5, 2 pm, **Ellen Powell** of the Virginia Department of Forestry will lead.

Dragonflies, Sat., July 30, 11 am, **Jim Childress** and **Emily Luebke** will lead.

Butterfly Walk, Sun., June 12, 1 pm, **Mike Scott** will lead.

Nighthawk Migration, Thurs., Aug. 25 and Tues., Aug. 30, 7 pm, led by **Dave Hogg.**

Volunteers Needed for ICNA Workdays

June 9 & 25, July 14 & 23, Aug. 11 & 27, 8 to 11 am — Join volunteers to work on field restoration, invasive plant removal, or various trail improvements such as water bar repairs and trail widening. Wear outdoor work clothes.



Farming in Albemarle County in the 1930s and 1940s

Billy Garrison and Jack Crickenberger have been farming in Earlsyville in Albemarle County all of their lives, and they are both octogenarians. On May 22, they shared memories of their early days as children on their parents’ and grandparents’ neighboring farms, around the time of the Great Depression. Their experiences were likely similar to those of Conley Greer, although he took over the River View Farm earlier from his father-in-law, Hugh Carr, who

Ivy Talks: “The Land Will Take Care of You”

had been a slave at nearby Woodlands, before becoming a free landowner after the Civil War. Woodlands later became a dairy farm.

Alice Cannon, chair of the ICF Education Committee, assembled slides from the 1930s and 1940s photographs of the Garrison and Crickenberger farms and prompted the senior farmers to tell stories about a time when “life was simple, and people had time to talk,” according to Jack Crickenberger.

Sixteen years ago, Alice and her husband moved to Bleak House, an 1854 Albemarle County farmhouse on Bleak House Road between Earlsyville and Free Union, once part of a 700-acre plantation. Jack Crickenberger’s grandfather bought their house and 522 acres, and later gave 96 of them to Jack’s father in exchange for years of his help on the farm. Garrison’s father bought an 85-acre farm in 1929, including cows, horses, orchards, and barns for \$2300 from his father-in-law. (cont. on p. 2)

(Ivy Talks cont.)

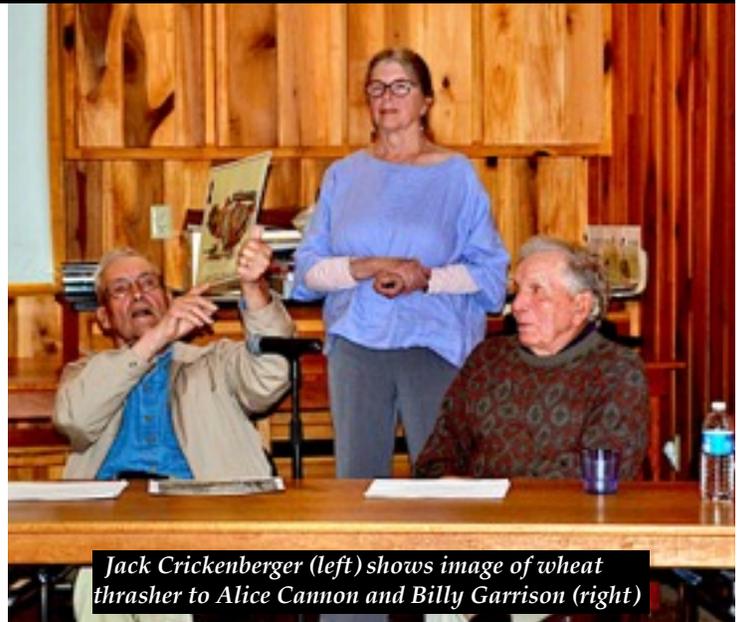
In the decades before World War II, farmers in the area grew wheat, oats, barley, sorghum, and hay and took wheat to John Fray’s Mill (Advance Mills) to be ground into flour. There was also a general store at Fray’s Mill and Garrison remembers, “They also sold coffins.” In those times, a family might use a barrel of flour a month (196 pounds) for cooking. The farms produced milk and cream, which had to be kept cool. Larger milk farms delivered their milk daily to Monticello Dairy for processing. Smaller farms, like the Garrison, Crickenberger and Conly Greer farms, sold separated cream that was picked up once a week. As boys, the farmers had to milk two or three cows every morning before school, and again in the afternoon. Coffee, sugar, and salt could be purchased from the Earlsyville General Store, still standing today, and also, Billy Garrison recalls, “You could get a haircut (there) for 25 cents.”

Many of the tools in Conley Greer’s barn (below) are familiar to Garrison and Crickenberger. Originally farmers used teams of horses or mules to pull plows, wagons and farm equipment, but the gas-engine tractor came into use after World War II, a time when Mr. Garrison remembers German prisoners of war working on the farms, and being so grateful for their treatment that they bought gifts for the farmers and families.



other without any thought to payment.”

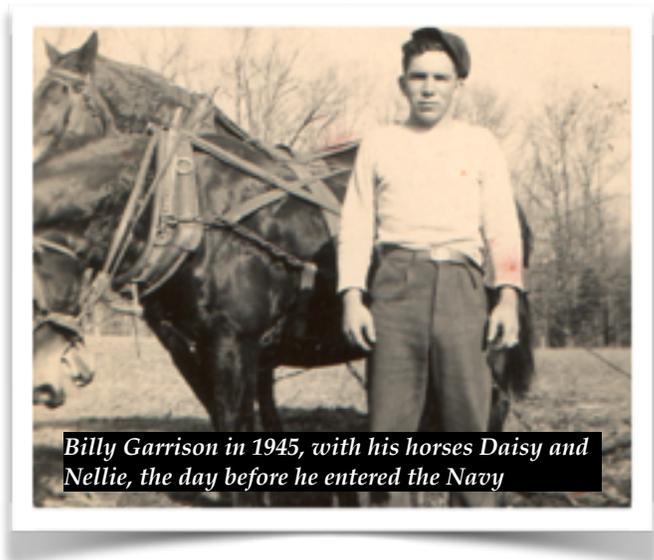
River View Farm stayed in the Carr-Greer family for many years prior to becoming ICNA. In 1918 Greer was hired by the Virginia Agricultural Extension Division, then a segregated institution, as Albemarle County’s first black extension agent. As extension agent and noted conservationist, Greer did quite a few conservation plans for



Jack Crickenberger (left) shows image of wheat thrasher to Alice Cannon and Billy Garrison (right)

minority farmers in Albemarle. By 1953 Greer had expanded the farm to over 200 acres and the boundary was very similar to that of today’s Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Alice Cannon notes with pride that River View Farm is the first stop on the “Union Ridge African American Heritage Trail.” She took the title for the farming Ivy Talk from a saying by Annie Crickenberger’s father, “If you have land, never sell it. It will take care of you.” And now we members of the Ivy Creek Foundation are the stewards of this land that has such important cultural and natural history.



Billy Garrison in 1945, with his horses Daisy and Nellie, the day before he entered the Navy

Train to Become a Barn Docent

We would love to include you among our barn docents! Learn how to interact with the public using the history of the barn and River View Farm. Training is free. Meet in front of the barn, Saturdays, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, and Sept. 7, 10:00 am.

Join Dave Hogg to Observe Nighthawks' Migration

Thurs., Aug. 25 and Tues., Aug. 30, 7 pm

Birder Dave Hogg will guide visitors on two evening walks at Ivy Creek in August to observe nighthawks as they migrate towards South America for the winter.

The Common Nighthawk is a striking bird which was once common here in Central Virginia, but is increasingly rare. Its pointed, hawk-like wings are between 20 and 24 inches long, and although the bird is not a hawk, the wings have led to its name. It feeds on insects which it catches on the wing. It winters in South America, most often in Argentina, and migrates to the northern US and Canada. It is most easily seen in the evening during its fall migration, and this is when we will look for them at Ivy Creek.

Dave writes, "If we are lucky one might fly low enough that we can observe the bright white bar near the elbow of the wing. In the past years we have seen them frequently between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. Again with luck the birds will be feeding, and we will see their strong flight as they zig and zag in search of food. Most often the birds will be alone, but occasionally we will see flocks of five to ten making their way south for the winter."



Our May Book Sale made \$485. Thanks to our staff, our volunteers Carol Hogg, Diana Foster, and Lorna Werntz, and customers!

Dominion Provides ICF \$5,000 Grant to Fight Invasive Plants

The Ivy Creek Foundation has been awarded a \$5,000 environmental stewardship grant from the Dominion Foundation to combat invasive plants at the Ivy Creek Natural Area in Albemarle County.

This grant will enable ICF to control the onslaught of highly invasive non-native plants such as autumn olive, ailanthus (tree of heaven), and oriental bittersweet through herbicidal spraying and other methods. If left unchecked, these aggressive species will decimate the native flora and negatively impact the wildlife species that rely on native plants to survive.

These on-the-ground efforts are an extension of the invasive management program that ICF began in 2013 and 2014, and will be complemented with an educational outreach in the form of plant identification walks, workshops, meetings and/or seminars to make the community aware of the value of native flora and the removal of destructive invasive plants.

Speaking for ICF, Executive Director Tatyanna Patten reports "We are very pleased with the award. It allows us to continue our battle against invasive plants. ICNA is an oasis for wildlife on the edge of a densely populated area. As such, it is important that we maintain its native ecosystems to the best of our ability."

"We are proud to support the Ivy Creek Foundation as they work to protect natural resources and make the community more livable and enjoyable," said Hunter A. Applewhite, president of the Dominion Foundation. "It's very rewarding to support their efforts because they align well with our mission to conserve and promote the health and beauty of the environment in the places we call home."

The Dominion Foundation is the charitable arm of Dominion Virginia Power's parent company, Dominion Resources.

Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Karen Mulder



Education Committee Member, Master Naturalist, Barn Docent

Karen Mulder decided to become a barn docent after taking the Rivanna Master Naturalists course in 2015. When she became aware that the barn’s curatorial notes, signage and presentation could use a little freshening up, she worked with the Education Committee to achieve that, and work is almost complete. She writes, “I was very struck by how compelling River View Farm’s story is, and how rare. I love awakening people to the farm’s significance.”

As a master naturalist, Karen has been involved in the bluebird monitoring project and Rivanna water monitoring, and she serves as corresponding secretary on their board. Karen received an architectural history doctorate at the University of Virginia and ended up staying in Charlottesville longer than any of her other homes, including Venezuela, Australia, the Swiss Alps, and Libya. She has also studied art history and religion at Yale, and archaeology at Boston University. She once ran an international artists’ network (in the days before faxes and the internet!), lecturing about the arts on five continents.

Karen and her partner are hikers who love the Appalachian Trail. She still comes to Ivy Creek Natural Area to do informational and meditation walks with the “Trail Dames,” a national hiking group, and helped start its Central Charlottesville chapter. Karen has witnessed the healing power of nature, and she assists at Camp Mabon, an annual, transformative, nature-based experience for survivors of sexual abuse.

Currently Karen is participating in a year-long national initiative based in California called “The Ecology of Awakening.”

Rochelle Garwood



Board Member, Grant Writer

Rochelle and her husband Bob are long-time members of Ivy Creek Foundation. Originally from Pittsburgh, Rochelle now lives in northern Albemarle, and serves on the ICF Board and the Development Committee. She has expertise in grant writing and hopes to put that experience to work on ICF’s master planning effort.

With a master’s degree in environmental science, Rochelle worked for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission for 15 years. While there, she was involved in a number of projects relating to water quality, including the Rivanna River Basin Project, as well as such diverse topics as green infrastructure to disability services. Currently, Rochelle freelances, cares for her two daughters, and serves on the Albemarle Natural Heritage Committee in addition to her work with ICF. She also maintains an accessible travel review website.

Rochelle’s interest in accessibility stems from her experiences with her daughter Laurel, who uses a wheelchair. This has made Rochelle aware of ways in which Ivy Creek Natural Area could be more accessible. She suggests adding interpretive, interactive aids to expand the experience along the short paved trail, and offering more accessible programming for all ages. Rochelle notes that Laurel loved participating in the “First Fridays Under the Stars” program.



Northern water snake — Photo by Mary Lee Epps

Lorna Werntz



Committee Member, Education and Buildings and Grounds

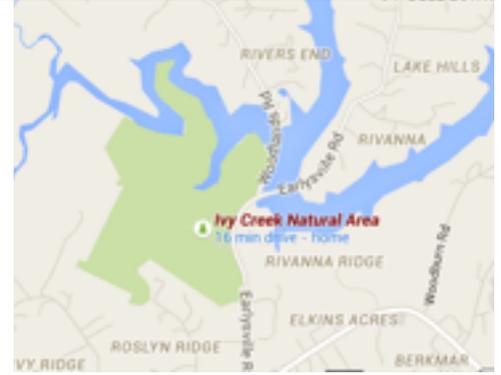
How does Ivy Creek Foundation recruit new volunteers like Lorna Werntz, who has spent a great deal of her time during her first six months in Charlottesville volunteering for us? Lorna’s story is telling: she moved from Wheaton, Ill., in the end of October last year, saw Ivy Creek on the map while house hunting, and decided to visit one Sunday in November. It happened to be the day of Tom Dierauf’s Ivy Talk “What the Old Trees Tell Us.” She said, “I was so taken by Tom’s talk, and then we walked on some of the trails, and I was really impressed with the people who were there who were so friendly and intelligent — this fits with my love of natural history, conservation, cultural heritage, and family history. This seems unique.”

Lorna and her husband owned a health care benefits consulting business in Chicago until he died last year. Their daughter attended the University of Virginia and is now enrolled in a doctoral program there. A native of Richmond, Lorna and her husband lived for a time in northern Virginia while he worked on Capitol Hill.

Since January Lorna has thrown herself into a variety of activities for ICF as a member of the Education Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. In addition, Carol Hogg recruited her to begin reorganizing our library, she volunteered on two of our workdays, and she helped staff our table at KidVention, a downtown event for school children. Recently Lorna became certified in Disaster and Wilderness First Aid in preparation to become a trail guide or a docent.



Featured Ivy Creek Partner Organization



Ivy Creek Natural Area is named for a tributary of the Rivanna River, Ivy Creek, which flows into the Rivanna Reservoir, along ICNA's western boundary. The 42-mile long Rivanna River flows southeast along the eastern border of Charlottesville, passes Monticello, and continues through Fluvanna County until it reaches the James River. So much of our local history, including that of River View Farm, begins with this wonderful source of fresh water. The Rivanna was the first river in Virginia to be designated a scenic river. Unlike many other rivers, it has not been subjected to heavy manufacturing or large agribusiness enterprises along its shores.

The Rivanna is the main source of our drinking water and has for many years been watched carefully and protected by two groups — Rivanna Conservation Society and StreamWatch — who recently merged to form the **Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA)**. By joining forces in January 2016 they provide our community with a comprehensive approach to keeping our rivers and streams clean and healthy. We at ICF appreciate their expertise, programs, and shared mission.

This tranquil and beautiful river and its tributaries are home to hundreds of species of native plant and animal life. RCA's mission is to protect the largely unspoiled beauty of the river and maintain a healthy ecosystem throughout the river's watershed through community involvement, conservation, education, recreation, restoration, water-quality monitoring and reporting and a new watershed vision — a healthy, thriving community that values its rivers and streams.

With the merger, the benthic and bacteria monitoring programs were split into two parts with two individuals, Jessica Dodds (benthic) and Kevin Geiger (bacteria), hired to manage them. This was done to accommodate the new work that RCA will be doing with the University of Virginia, Albemarle County, the City of Charlottesville, the James River Association and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Robbi Savage, executive director of RCA, believes that the partnership with ICF may allow it to “expand our collaboration when it comes to school-age children programs and adult programs for retirees and citizen scientists” because we share an interest in our watershed conservation. Currently RCA has nearly 135 certified water quality monitors: benthic (at DEQ certified Level III — which means that government accepts the sampling data as if it were its own — and bacteria monitoring, (Level II – high quality data collected by volunteers and verify by VA DEQ biologists). She adds, “In addition, we have strong recreation, restoration, outreach and education programs, so I foresee a benefit to joining

forces with Ivy Creek Foundation for a variety of programs.”

Some of the events RCA sponsors are buffer plantings, World Water Day, and Earth Day events and classes, the Watershed Flyover program for elected and appointed officials, with Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer the most recent guest, workshops on Primitive Skills, Toads/Frogs, Stormwater, Water Safety, and Edible and Medicinal Plants, as well as Old Farm Day and Rivanna Regatta.

Conducting water quality sampling on the Rivanna River



Like ICF, which manages ICNA and the Woods NA, RCA manages, the Scheier Natural Area, a 100-acre parcel of land in Fluvanna County donated to them in 1997 as a protected area for biological, wildlife, and aquatic habitats. The Scheier Natural Area offers eight ponds and over three miles of beautiful trails for hiking, enjoying nature, and environmental education. RCA is in the process of constructing its new Scheier Education Center on the property.



Ivy Creek Foundation

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SAVE THE DATE — the ICF ANNUAL MEETING will be Sunday, September 18, at 2 pm in the Education Building. Our featured presenters are Warren Byrd and Sue Nelson, renowned landscape architects and long-time Ivy Creek members. You won't want to miss it!

The VNPS Plant Sale in May had record sales. The Jefferson Chapter is grateful for the exceptional support they received both from volunteers and their many customers.

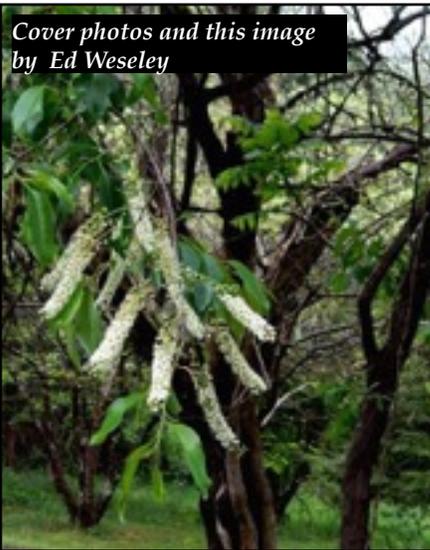
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by Ed Weseley



Call for Volunteers

Got skills, hobbies, and interests? We have four standing committees that would love your help!

- Budget & Finance needs one or two more folks adept with numbers;
- Marketing & Development seeks willing fundraisers and publication planners;
- Education can always use help planning and hosting public programs; and

- Buildings & Grounds guides the maintenance of our trails, grounds, and facilities.

If you are interested in joining any of these teams, please e-mail Tatyanna at ivycreek.director@gmail.com, and she will put you in touch with the committee chair for more information.

— Tatyanna Patten, ICF Executive Director

Support ICF with an IRA Rollover

Did you know that you may be able to use your IRA for a gift to ICF and receive a tax advantage?

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) permitted individuals to roll over up to \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualifying charity without recognizing the assets transferred to the qualifying charity as income. While this initial provision expired on December 31, 2007, it has been extended several times. On December 18, 2015 President Obama signed the PATH Act making this special provision permanent.

If you are age 70 ½ or over, this is a great way to help satisfy your required minimum distribution considering you may donate up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA without it counting toward annual income.

To take advantage of the tax reduction, your IRA trustee must make the contribution directly to an eligible charitable organization by December 31st. Consult with your tax advisor to explore how this provision can benefit you, and also help ICF continue with the active stewardship and education of our natural areas and cultural history.