



Natural Area News

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ICF Takes “Voices from the Land” on the Road

by Diana Foster and Marilyn Smith

This past autumn Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF) volunteers took “Voices from the Land” programming to four regional Boys & Girls Clubs. In fun and active weekly sessions, under the guidance of two dozen trained volunteers, more than a hundred young people found inspiration in their local forests as artists, photographers, poets, graphic artists, and performers. In the style of Andrew Goldsworthy, the children used natural materials (including worms and millipedes found on site and returned promptly to native habitats!) to create ephemeral art and take photographs. After brainstorming interpretive words and “digging deeper” to make those words more poetic, the young people created posters and learned how to perform their poetry.

A highlight of the program was a half-day field trip to Ivy Creek Natural Area where



Art on the School Trail

the children explored trails, created art and poetry, and learned about River View Farm. Using these insights, the children worked in teams to create ephemeral art along the trails (captured forever in photographs), created poetry, and performed. They brought their work back to their clubs where they celebrated by performing their poetry and sharing their posters with family and peers. We plan to create a photographic book documenting the program for each club and ICF.

This program has been in the making for more than a year. Volunteers coordinated training, designed the curriculum, and demonstrated incredible flexibility and creativity to make this all happen. We are truly grateful for the many hours that our volunteers worked and the generous grants by The Prana Fund and BAMA Works. By any measure, “Voices from the Land” was a grand success.

ICF Discontinues Its Print Newsletter

This is the last quarterly issue of the Ivy Creek Foundation News that will be printed and mailed to members, but we look forward to continuing our communications with you through e-mail and our website. For a variety of reasons, among them cost and time, we are moving to an online format. The Communications Committee has been investigating Constant Contact software, but no decision will be made until a new Executive Director arrives.

To assure that you will continue to receive our communications, we are sending an electronic version of this

newsletter to everyone on our email list. Please check to see if you have received it. If you have not, contact us at director@ivycreekfoundation.org with your current email address.

As your print newsletter editor since August 2014, I have had the marvelous experience of meeting and interviewing members of the Ivy Creek community, which extends back in time and includes many wonderful naturalists, scientists, advocates, educators, public servants, volunteers, and staff. Special thanks to Rochelle Garwood; Bruce Gatling-Austin; Susan Thomas,

our newsletter layout editor; and all the wonderful volunteers and staff who have contributed stories and helped with the mailings.

Our mission has been to strengthen our community by highlighting the Natural Area programs and the diverse and unique gifts our members share through their work at the ICNA. We are truly blessed with a beautiful and special parcel of land and history, and our joint efforts to be good stewards have made our lives richer. It has been my great pleasure to serve as editor.

Sharon Baiocco

Spotlight on Our New Board Volunteers

Elizabeth Raymond Entrepreneur

Elizabeth Raymond, a native of Charlottesville, attended the University of Virginia for her bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in education. Elizabeth ventured into



business with her family as one of the co-founders of NoBull Burger, which produces and sells veggie burgers wholesale nationwide. When not immersed in

the many hats of running a business, Elizabeth enjoys enhancing her life through traveling, spending time with

loved ones, nature, food, music, yoga, and learning (bonus points if it's all at the same time.) She loves having opportunities to serve her community and help enrich the lives of others.

Keith Woodard Retired Commercial Construction Contractor

Keith Woodard was born and raised in Richmond and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1971 with a BA in economics. He received an MBA in 1975 from the University of Virginia Graduate School of Business Administration (renamed Darden the following year). Afterward, he served in the US Army Reserve as a medic,

then joined the Turner Construction Company, Eastern Region, in Virginia Beach and Philadelphia. In 1989, Keith started Woodard Group, a construction



company, which does commercial construction in the Tidewater area of Virginia. He is also involved in developing small commercial properties in several areas in Virginia.

In 2014-2015, Keith was involved in the construction of the expansion of the Ivy Creek United Methodist Church in Charlottesville which he and his family attend. Currently, Keith and his wife are building their retirement home across the road from the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Landscape Improvement Planning (LIP) Moves Forward

by Diana Foster

After spending almost two years assessing data about visitor numbers, overall safety, and deterioration of our structures and roadways, we received lots of great ideas for improvement of the core visitor arrival area from many people. ICF is working closely with the parks and

recreation staffs of both the City

of Charlottesville and Albemarle County to move forward the Landscape Improvement Planning. Study groups are currently researching three aspects of the Plan:



River View Farmhouse



Ivy Creek Foundation

Ivy Creek Foundation

President: John Edelen
 Vice President: Mary Spear
 Secretary: Diana Foster
 Treasurer: Phil Stokes
 Interim Ex. Director: Rochelle Garwood
 Ed. Coordinator: Bruce Gatling-Austin
 Newsletter Editor: Sharon Baiocco
 Newsletter Layout: Susan Thomas

info@ivycreekfoundation.org

(434) 973-7772

The River View Farmhouse and Cemetery Study Group will create a vision for the Carr-Greer house's future use and for protection and management of the family cemetery. The first steps include assessing current conditions of the house and protecting it against further weather damage.

The Roadway Projects Study Group will work closely with the County, VDOT, and abutting neighbors to improve the safety of the entrance from Earlysville Road and to improve safety and ease of use of all roadways within the Ivy Creek Nature Area (ICNA).

The Kiosk Improvement Study Group will work to improve the contents and design of all welcoming structures to ICNA and River View Farm, including the main information kiosk.

To participate in any of these groups or to share ideas, please email Diana Foster at dfoster@newventure.com.

Spring 2018 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!*

Tapes in the Attic and Stories They Tell

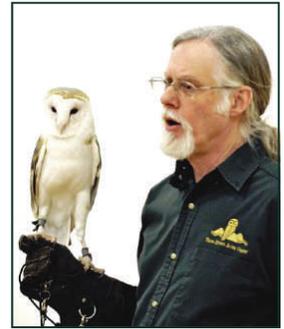
Sun., Feb. 11 at 2 pm. Learn about the treasured tapes found in a 2015 clean-up of the Ivy Creek Education Building. Ivy Creek historians, **Dede Smith** and **Alice Cannon**, will lead us through samples of recordings made in the 1980s that detail memories of River View Farm and the Carr-Greer family. Grandsons Benjamin and Charles Whitten recall their childhood visits to the farm and extended family in the 1920s and 1930s, while the tapes of James Butler, the extension agent for the



African-American farming community in the 1950s who succeeded Conly Greer, take us on a tour through the barn and his recollections of it during the Greer ownership. The information contained in these tapes led to changes in the interpretation of the barn and a better understanding of



the life at River View Farm and the people who have been connected to it.



Wings of Wonder: Birds of Prey!

Sun., Mar. 11 at 2 pm. "Wings of Wonder: Birds of Prey," is an interactive, award-winning program featuring live birds of prey including owls, falcons, hawks, and Regis, the Bald Eagle! **Wendy and Ron Perrone** are co-founders of Three Rivers Avian Center in West Virginia, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing veterinary and rehabilitative care to injured non-game wild birds and to educating and involving the public in stewardship of the ecosystem. As professional environmental educational presenters, Wendy is the main handler for "Regis," the Center's Bald Eagle Ambassador, and Ron works to develop the Center's public outreach program. In 2005 both Wendy and Ron received the Distinguished Mountaineer Award from West Virginia's Governor Joe Manchin III for their many years of dedication to wild bird care and for their proactive and positive environmental educational programs. At our talk, you will see birds up close, get to know about their habitats, and collect tips about what you can do to help wild birds around you. Bring your family and friends, and don't forget your camera! This is a great interactive program for all ages.

Albemarle Historical Story Mapping

Sun., Apr. 8 at 2 pm. Learn about the history of Albemarle County, specifically the Ivy Creek Natural Area and the Hollymead vicinity,

through the use of story maps. A story map uses digital maps, text, photographs, and other records to create an interactive narrative.

This talk will explore the history of the Carr and Greer families, and other earlier landowners who shaped Ivy Creek Natural Area. The history of the Hollymead area and its gradual transformation from quiet, rural farms to a bustling neighborhood and commercial center will also be covered. Presenter **Erik Irtenkauf** has worked in the Geographic Information Systems field for over ten years.



You are Invited!

First Fridays Under the Stars

Dec. 1 & Feb. 2 at 7:30 pm

Learn from a short indoor lecture about the upcoming events in the heavens with the help of Charlottesville Astronomical Society (CAS) volunteers. After the skies darken, observe the constellations and nebula. Use the CAS's telescopes or bring your own. Viewing from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. Meet outdoors in the field next to the barn at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Free and open to all, this event will recur on the even months throughout the year.

To find more coming events, walks, talks, etc., visit our monthly website calendar at www.ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar

Ivy Creek Foundation
P. O. Box 956
Charlottesville, VA 22902

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Friday Night Skies at ICNA The Charlottesville Astronomical Society

Featured Partner Organization

The Charlottesville Astronomical Society (CAS) was founded in 1990 to promote the enjoyment of observing the stars and planets. CAS strives to interest individuals of all ages and levels of astronomical experience in astronomy through naked-eye, telescopic, and binocular viewing as well as through monthly talks. The group has much to offer in terms of information and activities for budding amateur astronomers as well as those who are simply curious about space. But, most of all, CAS tries to make astronomy a thrilling experience for everyone.

Regular meetings of this 100-member club are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm at the University of Virginia's historic McCormick Observatory. They typically provide a guest presentation each month on a variety of astronomical topics from cosmology to observing techniques. On clear nights, CAS offers attendees an opportunity to observe using the the 26" Leander McCormick Telescope.

Additionally, for the past ten years the club has sponsored programs at Ivy Creek that have become known as "First Fridays Under the Stars." According to **Steve Layman**, outreach director: "We are fortunate to live in an area that can boast relatively dark nights where the Milky Way can still be seen just outside Charlottesville. On a clear night, the program attracts 25 to 50 observers, but rainy or cloudy skies cancel the outdoor portion." (See sidebar on page 3.)

For more information visit the CAS website, www.cvilleastro.com, or its Facebook page.

