



Natural Area News

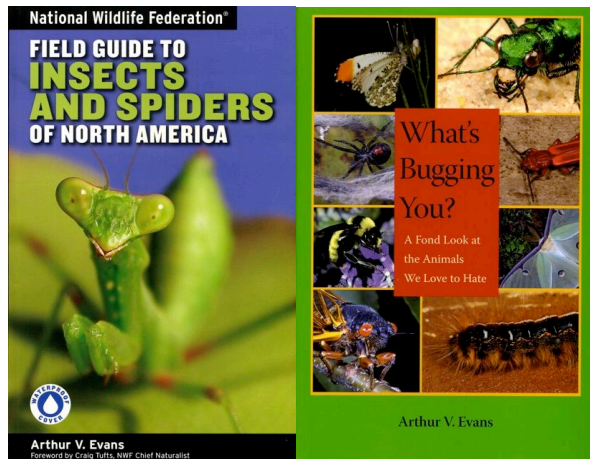
A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation
Volume 15, No. 2

Fall Newsletter 2009

Ivy Creek Foundation Annual Meeting and Potluck, Sunday September 13th, 1-4pm

We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 13th. The day will kick off with our third membership potluck at 1pm. These potlucks are a great way to meet other members and talk to staff and others about what is happening at Ivy Creek. Please bring your family, friends, Ivy Creek stories and a dish to share!

At 2pm we will conduct the business of the Board of Directors, bidding a formal farewell to outgoing Board members (they will continue to be involved as members and volunteers!) and welcoming aboard our new Board members. We are then very excited to have entomologist, educator, author, and photographer Dr. Art Evans with us to offer us a colorful and engaging look at Virginia's insects, spiders and their relatives. We know our members will appreciate Art's stories about moths that evade hungry bats by sensing echolocation signals and the luminous language of light employed by fireflies. Art's latest books include the *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America* (Sterling, 2007) and *What's Bugging You? A fond look at the animals we love to hate* (University of Virginia Press, 2008). He will also present a sneak peak at his current book projects, *Beetles of Eastern North America* (Princeton University Press) and *Introduction to Insects of Virginia and the Carolinas* (University of Virginia Press). For a preview, check out Art's blog, *What's Bugging You?*, at arthurevans.wordpress.com. The meeting will conclude with a book signing, so come prepared to buy a copy of one or both of the two books below or bring one you already have for signing. This is a great event for the whole family! We look forward to seeing you there!



Director's Note

It has been a super busy, volunteer-filled summer at Ivy Creek and fall promises more of the same.

We had great help from all our volunteers on the trails this summer. Thanks to all the hard work of our trail monitors and the volunteers from Community Attention, Teens GIVE and CCC Camp, we managed to keep well ahead of the growth this summer. Thank you all!

We have a lot of exciting events coming up this fall. We are organizing two events at the Paramount Theater. Our Celebrating the Nature of Virginia photography showing will be there on October 2nd. "First Friday," and Nick Nichols is hosting a fundraiser for us there on the 9th of October. We will also be holding an event with Carr family descendants in late October or early November. As we do not even have a date for this, please do check the website regularly for news. As I write, our trusty webmaster Coleman Kitchin is setting us up with a Facebook page. So if you are on Facebook, just search for "Ivy Creek Foundation" and click "pages" to become a fan. Then you'll get regular updates from us on these developing plans!

We are still looking for members interested in working with us a wide range of Board committees and to sit on the Board itself. We can tell you all about it at the Annual Meeting potluck!

Wishing you the best for fall,

Karen

Summer Fun, Fall Events and Other News

We have had a great summer! Folks enjoyed our many nature walks and programs on butterflies, dragonflies, plants, animal tracking and more. The Exploring Summer Walk with Mary Jane Epps inspired a member to enroll in the training program for our volunteer guides. This photograph of a Grape Fern was taken by Ivy Creek member Tony Russell on the Summer Wildflower Walk.

Speaking of photographs, we also held our “Celebrating the Nature of Virginia Photography Contest” this summer. This contest was organized between newsletters, but hopefully most of you heard about it. (This is a good example of why checking the website every once in a while is a good idea!) We have had some wonderful entries and the winning photographs will be on display during the First Friday artist walk at the Paramount Theater on October 2nd, 5-7pm. First place winners in each category will also receive a ticket to see Nick Nichols, Editor at Large for Photography at *National Geographic* magazine, speak and show his work the following Friday at the Paramount, October 9th, 8pm (see article on page 3).

This summer we also received a BAMA Works Fund grant of \$5,000 to build on our Monarch butterfly program in the fall and develop and roll out the forensics mammal skull unit to local schools the spring. We have some great colleagues and partners working with us on these programs, but always welcome more involvement. So please be in touch if either of these programs might be an interesting project for you or someone you know!

Finally, we have some upsetting news to share. In August a car got broken into in the evening (but during daylight hours). There were two similar incidents last winter, but after dark. This kind of crime seems to be on the rise in our area, with cars being broken into in various places where people congregate (schools, cinemas, parks). Please do not leave your belongings in the car – or lock them in the trunk. Better yet, travel light and carry your belongings with you. We will be posting a sign to remind people of the risk as soon as we can get one made.



Coordinator's Corner

We had a lovely summer of scheduled educational programs with almost 500 people attending. Many children and new people appreciated the individuals who donated their time in butterflies, dragonflies, drawing, snakes, tracking, and wildflowers to mention a few. Thanks again.

Right now, the fall wildflowers are out: horsemint, wingstem, cardinal flower, and jumpseed. A few acorns and hickory nuts have dropped early. The reservoir is a bit low. The nighthawks have begun to migrate and the indigo buntings are losing their brilliant plumage.

This fall programs range from Junior Naturalists to Monarchs to Focus on Forests. Our biggest program is still our school nature tour program for schoolchildren on Monday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. We can always use more trained volunteers to help out with the nature tour program. Training begins on September 8th. Also for children we have Forest Friends on the third Wednesday, Toddler Time on the last Thursday of the month and Junior Naturalists every other Monday afternoon. Also the Virginia Museum of Natural History will be making a presentation on trees of Virginia this fall for the nature tours.

Handwritten signature of Bruce

Who Wants Ivy Creek T-Shirts?

We have recently explored the possibility of having Ivy Creek Foundation T-shirts made. We know we would like to have our logo on the front or the arm of the shirt, and the updated version of the Ivy Creek Natural Area trail map on the back, in color. We would love to have a group of members work with us on the final design and help make this happen. When we get further along in our plans, we would like to take orders ahead of time so that we can lower the cost of each shirt by ordering the largest lot that makes sense. About \$15 should cover the cost of the T-shirt we have in mind. If you are interested in a T-shirt, be in touch!

***National Geographic* Editor at Large for Photography Nick Nichols Hosts a
Fundraiser for the Ivy Creek Foundation at the
Paramount Theater, October 9th, 8pm:
Photographing Nature's Giants**

A couple years ago, Ivy Creek member and Editor at Large for Photography at *National Geographic* magazine Michael "Nick" Nichols offered to host a fundraising event for Ivy Creek. With staff turnover and busy travel and work schedules, it took a little time to get this event organized. But we are very excited and pleased to announce that this fundraiser will happen October 9th, 8pm, at the historic Paramount Theater on the Downtown Mall.

Nick will show photographs from his many projects, ranging from elephants in Africa to the California Redwoods. The two photographs shown here are previews of Nick's photographs from his project, "The Tallest Trees," which will be featured in the October 2009 issue of *National Geographic*, at newsstands on September 29th.

Nick's images are beautiful and inspired by an intense desire to preserve and conserve the natural wonders of our world. And the Paramount is the perfect, restored and preserved historical setting to appreciate these images! If you have been waiting for the right event to attend there – this is it!

Nick will also share with us the techniques he has developed to capture these impressive images.

One of the images featured in the "The Tallest Trees" was created by meticulously piecing together over 80 separate photographs! LOOK3 Festival of the Photograph has arranged to have this image reproduced on large scale and displayed on the Downtown Mall before the October 9th talk. This will be a dramatic preview to the show!

The funds raised through the sales of tickets will support environmental education programming at the Ivy Creek Natural Area and general operations. Depending on the success of this event, we plan to hold a similar fundraiser as a yearly activity.

You can support us by attending and helping promote the event. Tickets are priced as follows: \$10 youth; \$18 general admission; \$25 for reserved seating in the central section of the theater. Tickets are available at the Paramount Box Office. If you go in person to buy your tickets, you will not have to pay the regular processing fees.

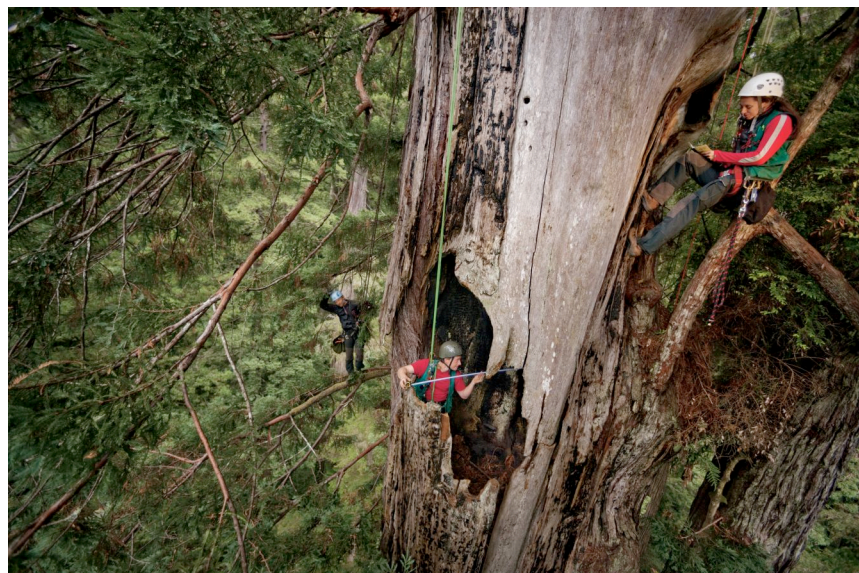


Photo: Michael Nichols/National Geographic



Photo: Michael Nichols/National Geographic

If you pay by check or in cash (not by credit card), you will save us that service charge! Tickets will also be available at every Ivy Creek public program in September and early October, until the day of the show.

This event is a product of our collaboration with the Piedmont Environmental Council, National Geographic and LOOK3 Festival of the Photograph. We thank them and hope this will lead to further collaboration in the future. This event is also indicative of our growing commitment to including art-focused activities in our programming. This is an important step in our growth as a community organization, and we hope you can help us make it a success!

All programs are free of charge and open to the public unless otherwise indicated.

September 2009

- 3 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**
Thursday, September 3, 7:00 pm
Come hear Peter Warren, Virginia Extension Agent, speak about honeybee relatives. We'll also discuss preparing hives for winter. Meet in the Education Center. Beginners welcome.
- 5 First Saturday Bird Walk**
Saturday, September 5, 7:30 am
Walk with John Zimmerman of the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.
- 8 Ivy Creek Guide Training**
Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 am
Become a volunteer guide! Learn the trails and how to be a basic naturalist. Topics covered include mammals, reptiles, amphibians, trees, plants, birds, and the history of River View Farm. Meet every Tuesday morning. We'll start in the Education Building. Free. For more information contact Bruce Gatling-Austin at programs@ivycreekfoundation.org
- 9 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**
Wednesday, September 9, 7:30 pm
Come hear Marion Lobstein's presentation "Fantastic Voyages: the Plants of 1607." He'll examine the experience the Jamestown settlers had in adapting to the new/unknown flora they encountered. Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts.
- 10 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**
Thursday, September 10, 7:30 pm
Come see Reese Lukei, Jr.'s slide presentation on "The Osprey and Bald Eagle of Hampton Roads." We'll learn about their habits, location, feeding, population and problems. Beginners welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.
- 13 Ivy Creek Foundation Annual Meeting**
Sunday, September 13, 2:00 pm
Come meet the staff and board of Ivy Creek Foundation. Art Evans, author of National

Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America and What's Bugging You?, will speak about arthropods. Also hear about upcoming events and plans for the Ivy Creek Foundation. The board will propose a change in the bylaws. Meet in the Education Center.

16 Forest Friends

Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 am

Join Nicol Butters with your three to five year old to explore the Animals of Ivy Creek through puppets, songs and poetry, followed by a walk on the trails. Meet on the third Wednesday of every month in the Education Center. A parent or caregiver must accompany each child.

Young People Only: Junior Naturalist Clubs Gear Up for Fall Register now!

The 4H Junior Naturalist clubs at Ivy Creek offer fun, outdoor activities exploring the fields, forests, and streams of Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas. We will learn about the native plants and wildlife of our area (including snakes, spiders and bats!).

The clubs meet every other Monday from 4:00 – 5:30 pm at the Ivy Creek Natural Area, beginning September 21st. Two sections, for ages 6-9 and ages 10-13, provide age-appropriate activities. Pre-registration is required. To register, email Dan Bieker at danbieker@gmail.com or phone at 434-971-9618.

*This program is co-sponsored with Virginia
Cooperative Extension 4-H*

22 Focus on Forests

Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 pm

Join Tony Russell for the first Tuesday of a five-week mini-course on trees and the integral role they play in our local ecosystem. Contact Tony to be put on the waiting list at taorivertony@gmail.com Every Tuesday night through October 20th in the Education Center.

24 Ivy Creek Toddler Time

Thursday, September 24, 10:00 am

Introduce your toddler to nature with this short talk and trail walk for three to five year olds at Ivy Creek. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

26 Drawing from Nature

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 am

Artist Adam Peacock will take nature lovers out for a walk with paper, pencil and drawing board in hand to draw. This program is free to the public but space is limited. Please register by emailing icf@ivycreekfoundation.org. Meet in the Education Center.

26 Farm and Barn History Day

Saturday, September 26, 2:00 pm

Come enjoy the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This was formerly the showpiece of the working farm known as River View Farm. This is a rare afternoon with the barn open to the public.

October 2009

1 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 7:00 pm

Come hear Faith Andrews Bedford talk about "Beekeeping at Monticello." As former beekeeper at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, she'll discuss the marketing concept of honey and history. Beginners welcome. Meet in the Education Center.

2 Photography Contest Winners

Friday, October 2, 5:00 pm

See the top photos from our 'Celebrating the Nature of Virginia' contest at the 'First Friday Art Walk' at the Paramount Theater. First place winners in each category will receive tickets to see National Geographic photographer Nick Nichols speak at the Paramount the following Friday, October 9th.

3 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, October 3, 7:30 am

Walk with Dave Hogg of the Monticello Bird

Club for an early autumn bird walk. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

3 StreamWatch Training Workshop

Saturday, October 3, 9 am – 2:30 pm

In this StreamWatch introductory training, learn the fundamentals of benthic invertebrate sampling to gauge water quality and stream health. Class size is limited, and a reservation is required. Contact Rose Brown at 962-3527 or rose@streamwatch.org. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area off of Earlysville Road.

3 Moonlit Walk @ Ragged Mnt Natural Area

Saturday, October 3, 7:30 pm

Take a moonlit walk at the Ragged Mountain Natural Area and experience the ghostly presence of Edgar Allan Poe who found refuge here while a student at the University of Virginia. Not recommended for small children. Directions to the Ragged Mountain can be found at ivycreekfoundation.org/RMNA.html.

**Monticello Bird Club Seed Sale
Annual Bird Seed Sale – October**

Many different kinds of seed to choose from! Funds raised in the sale are used by the Monticello Bird Club to support nature-related educational and conservation projects. Sale runs only during October! For order forms, visit the Monticello Bird Club website at monticellobirdclub.org, call Jim Hill at (434) 975-6523 or email at jimcarhill@comcast.net.

4 Monarchs on the Move

Sunday, October 4, 2 pm

Learn about the natural history and ecology of this amazing insect. Michelle Prysby will offer hands-on study of live monarch caterpillars and butterflies. Following the presentation, we will assist with a study of monarch migration by tagging and releasing butterflies in the field. *Co-sponsored by the Rivanna Master Naturalists.* Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

8 Monticello Bird Club Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 7:30 pm

Lou Verner will show the effects of urbanization on wildlife in tonight's program.

Beginners welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

9 "Photographing Nature's Giants"

Friday, October 9, 8:00 pm

Award-winning National Geographic photographer Michael "Nick" Nichols will present stunning photographs from his many projects worldwide, including his latest on the California redwoods, featured in Geographic's October 2009 issue. This fundraiser for environmental education programming at the Ivy Creek Natural Area will take place at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Charlottesville.

11 Learning the Native Trees of Virginia

Sunday, October 11, 2:00 pm

At one time it was essential to know the trees you depended on for survival. Join naturalist Tony Russell on an introductory walk to learn how to identify the native trees we live among. Meet at the parking lot. *Cosponsored with Virginia Native Plant Society.*

14 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 pm

Chip Morgan is tentatively scheduled to speak about conservation measures being taken by Wintergreen Resort. Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts. Meet in the Education Center.

17 Insect Walk

Saturday, October 17, 1 pm

Join Peter Warren, horticultural extension agent for Charlottesville and Albemarle, on a walk to learn more about the insects you encounter in the fall. Discover the important role insects play in our daily lives. Have questions? Bring along your specimens for identification. Meet in the Education Center to start.

18 Invasives Plant Walk

Sunday, October 18, 1 pm

Learn to identify and control non-native invasive plants in this walk guided by Phil Stokes. We'll also learn how to use tools for invasive removal. Meet at the barn. *Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society.*

21 Forest Friends

Wednesday, October 21, 10:00 am

Join Nicol Butters with your three to five year old to explore Fall at Ivy Creek with puppets, songs and poetry followed by a walk on the trails. Meet in the Education Center. A parent or caregiver must accompany each child.

24 Wilderness First Aid Certification

Weekend, October 24-25, 8:30 am

This two-day course will provide a combination of basic instruction and role-playing scenarios to give you a well-rounded introduction to Wilderness First Aid for bushwalkers, climbers, paddlers and those who find themselves out and about. Led by SOLO instructor and director of the Outdoor Adventure Social Club - Matt Rosefsky. The certification is valid for two years. Registration required. Fee includes books, handouts, and certification. For more information go to <http://www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa.htm> or call (434) 760-HIKE. *10% of proceeds will go to Ivy Creek Foundation.*

29 Ivy Creek Toddler Time

Thursday, October 29, 10:00 am

Introduce your toddler to nature with this short talk and trail walk for three to five year olds at Ivy Creek. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

31 Drawing from Nature

Saturday, October 31, 10:00 am

Artist Adam Peacock will take nature lovers out for a walk with paper, pencil and drawing board in hand to draw. This program is free to the public but space is limited. Please register by emailing icf@ivycreekfoundation.org. Meet in the Education Center.

31 Farm and Barn History Day

Saturday, October 31, 2:00 pm

Come enjoy the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This was formerly the showpiece of the working farm known as River View Farm. This is a rare afternoon with the barn open to the public.

November 2009

5 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 pm

Hear "Impressions of an Italian raising Italians in Virginia" by Diego DeCorte, one of our club members. Diego will talk about his first year experiences as a transplanted beekeeper. Beginners welcome. Meet in the Education Center.

7 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, November 7, 7:30 am

Walk with Lou Tanner of the Monticello Bird Club for a late autumn bird walk. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

11 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 pm

Hear Dennis Whetzel from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historical Plants give a presentation on "Herb Use in American Kitchens and Door Yard Gardens during Colonial Times." Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts.

12 Monticello Bird Club Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 7:30 pm

Come learn from Mike Hayslett about the ecology and conservation of vernal pool wetlands and the importance to local wildlife. Beginners welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

18 Forest Friends

Wednesday, November 18, 10:00 am

Join Nicol Butters with your three to five year old to explore Animal Homes with puppets, songs and poetry followed by a walk on the trails. Meet in the Education Center. A parent or caregiver must accompany each child.

28 Drawing from Nature

Saturday, November 28, 10:00 am

Artist Adam Peacock will take nature lovers out for a walk with paper, pencil and drawing board in hand to draw. This program is free to the public but space is limited. Please register by emailing icf@ivycreekfoundation.org. Meet in the Education Center.

28 Farm and Barn History Day

Saturday, November 28, 2:00 pm

Come enjoy the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area. This was formerly the showpiece of the working farm known as River View Farm. This is a rare afternoon with the barn open to the public.

December 2009

3 Wendell Berry

Thursday, December 3, 5:30 pm

Brown College Visiting Environmental Writers and Scholars (ViEWS) Lecture Series welcomes Wendell Berry on December 3rd. Mr. Berry will give a reading, free and open to the public, in the Small/Harrison Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia.

ICF Membership

The Ivy Creek Foundation is a volunteer-based non-profit organization that depends on community donations to maintain the natural areas for your enjoyment and to provide free educational programming. This year we are developing a series of environmental education units, several of which we have described in past newsletters. We are also working with local teachers, school administrators and other community partners to develop education programs related to the rich family history of Ivy Creek.

We cannot do any of this without the support of our membership! This year we have launched our first concerted membership drive, and we need your help! Please become a member if you are not already, or pass this form on to a friend who enjoys the natural areas but is not yet a member. To join, please send your tax-deductible contribution to: Ivy Creek Foundation, P.O. Box 956, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Name(s) _____ Email _____
Address _____

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Subscribing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Patron |

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

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Membership Renewals: Membership renewal letters will reach you in the next few weeks. Please send in your membership donation as you are able. As ever, we are working hard to expand our membership. If you know someone who enjoys our natural areas, or does not know about these wonderful community assets yet, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to become a member!

Ivy Creek Foundation

Our Mission: To preserve and manage the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas for community education and appreciation.

The Ivy Creek Foundation is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization created in 1979 that works to manage, improve, and preserve the ecosystems of the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas for the purposes of environmental education, land conservation, and the appreciation of Virginia's natural heritage.

Ivy Creek Foundation Board of Directors 2008-2009

President: Peter Clark	LoriAnne Barnett	Linda Goodling	Terry Nauss
Vice President: Victoria Dye	Meghan Cloud	Jim Hutcherson	Liz Palmer
Secretary: Ruth Douglas	Brad Conner	Samuel Lindblom	Susan Pleiss
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Executive Director: Karen Joyner Education Coordinator: Bruce Gatling-Austin
For membership information, write to P. O. Box 956, Charlottesville, VA 22902, call (434) 973-7772
email: icf@ivycreekfoundation.org or visit our website at <http://ivycreekfoundation.org>



*Check the website for additional programming
and other possible changes to the schedule.*

*Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting and
Membership Potluck – September 13th, 1-4pm!*