



# Natural Area News

A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation  
Volume 15, No. 4

*Spring Newsletter 2010*

## Trail Work Needed at the Natural Areas

The weather this winter has been exceptional, challenging, and beautiful. As you might expect it has certainly taken its toll on the natural areas and their trails. There are whole trees down, and also a lot of smaller tree debris. Until we have safe footing, we will not work on clearing the trails, but we have started to clear up the Quiet Area at Ivy Creek. We will continue this effort on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm. If you would like to join us, please do! As soon as the majority of the trails are safe to work on, we will set up a second work day. If you let us know you are interested in helping out we can contact you when we have details, or watch the website for updates.



Photo: Victoria Dye

The photo below was taken near the head the Red Trail (you can just see the barn in the background).



This is an example of where a tree has broken in half and fallen across the path. Walkers, keen to continue enjoying the natural area, have walked around the obstruction and off the trail. So in addition to removing tree debris, we will also possibly need to close some temporary trails.

There are a lot of trees down at Ragged Mountain as well and more bridges to repair. Please consider joining us when we arrange our next work day there. Hopefully you were inspired by the article in last summer's newsletter. We had an awful lot of fun!

Email [icf@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:icf@ivycreekfoundation.org) or call (434) 973-7772 to be put on our trail work roster! We need all the help we can get!

## World Tour of the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Charlottesville

Please mark your calendars for the Charlottesville Banff Mountain Film Festival. Because the festival has been so well attended, this year it will be held at the Paramount Theater on the historic Downtown Mall on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the festival's 14<sup>th</sup> year in Charlottesville. Different films will be shown on each day. You can find the schedule and brief descriptions of the films at [ww.brms.com](http://ww.brms.com) or at the Charlottesville Blue Ridge Mountain Sports store.

Tickets are \$13 in advance or \$15 at the door. They are available at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports and the Paramount box office. For further information, please email [john@brms.com](mailto:john@brms.com), or call (434) 977-4400. Hope to see you there!

### From the ICF Board President

It's been a rough but beautiful winter. It was a joy to see Ivy Creek draped in snow, I hope you've had a chance to get out and enjoy it as well!

Spring is just around the corner and its time for us to begin looking for board member candidates to start in the fall. We are looking for motivated, energetic volunteers willing to donate a few hours every month. If you've always thought about getting involved, now is a great time! Please send an email to [icf@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:icf@ivycreekfoundation.org) or call (434) 973-7772 to find out more.

Enjoy the spring!

# The Second Annual Ivy Creek Nature of Virginia Photography Contest

This spring we are launching our second annual photography contest, “Celebrating the Nature of Virginia.” Please consider entering. We are also offering more nature photography programs to complement the contest. If you have ideas about further programming that would be helpful to you, please be in touch.

The photographs on this page and the next are three of the winning entries from last year’s contest. While going through these photographs to select a few to include here (found on the front page of our website at [ivycreekfoundation.org](http://ivycreekfoundation.org)), I was reminded how beautiful and inspiring the images truly are. One of the judges last year commented on how different judging others, and how she enjoyed witnessing the participants’ passion for nature. We look forward to seeing the next group of entries!



Photo: Raven Calling, Gerry Bishop

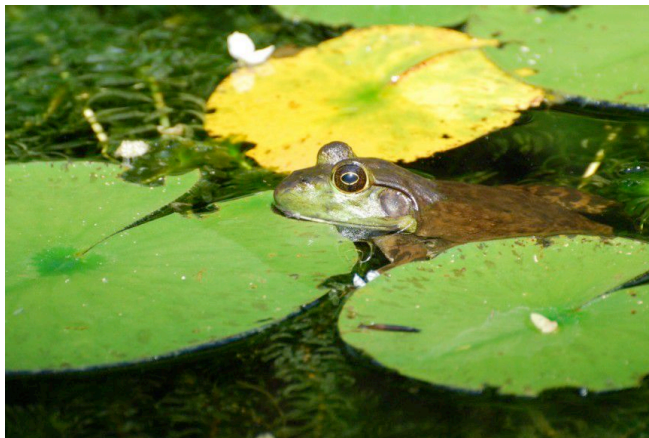


Photo: Lazy Day, Emily Krapf

## Come Help on May 1<sup>st</sup> with the Patricia Ann Byrom – Forest Preserve Park Bioblitz and Cultural Inventory

Byrom – Forest Preserve, Albemarle County’s newest park, is still in the planning stages. The county’s Natural Heritage Committee is organizing a bioblitz that will bring together local talents to identify uncommon or special species, habitats, or sites with important human history. Data collected will help the Albemarle County Parks and Recreation Department plan recreation, park management, and natural resource protection.

Data collection activities will take place May 1<sup>st</sup> throughout the day. Participation is free and open to both amateurs and professionals, but pre-registration is required. Adults only, please. For information, email Diana Foster at [dfoster@newventure.com](mailto:dfoster@newventure.com).

We hope to enjoy this local, exciting exploration with you!

this contest was from  
passion for nature. We

Like last year, we will have an exhibition in the fall to display the winning entries. The details will be set soon. The rules are the same as last year and posted on the website. We have an additional option this year of including some piece of writing with your entry. Tell us why you took the photo, what inspired you, why you entered it. Write a nature journal, a poem, or a story. If included, these pieces will be displayed with the winning photographs on display. Perhaps we could incorporate a reading if participants are willing. We look forward to hearing what you have to say as well as what you have to show!

### Director’s Note

What a wild winter it has been! Here at Ivy Creek we have been constantly monitoring the condition of the parking lot and trails, as well as rescheduling meetings and posting notices about cancelled programs. The trails are in bad shape and I hope some of our generous members will be able to help with the clear up!

Our next important event is taking place very soon, in mid-March, when Carr family descendants will come to Ivy Creek Natural Area to lay to rest a grandchild of Hugh and Texie Mae Carr, Dr. Charles Whitten. You may have already noticed his marker in the family cemetery. After a private family ceremony by the gravesite, the family and the Foundation will hold a repast in the Education Center. We need to keep an eye on the numbers for this event, so if you are interested in the family history and would like to attend, please be in touch now by email ([icf@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:icf@ivycreekfoundation.org)) or call (434) 973-7772.

Finally, we are holding the first of what we hope will be an annual spring fundraising, musical event on **April 24<sup>th</sup> at Mountfair Vineyards**. Please join us for a fun afternoon of local music, wine and company, while also supporting Ivy Creek’s education programming. Entry is only \$10 for adults, and children are no charge. Hope to see you there!

Wishing you the best for spring,

*Karen*

## 2010 is *The Year of the Rivanna*

Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program turns forty in 2010 and the Rivanna River was among the very first to be designated as scenic. The South Fork Rivanna was designated in 1975 with an extension in 1988. And, with the breaching of the Woolen Mills Dam the remaining segments were added in 2009 completing the designation for the entire river.

A group of Rivanna Watershed Partners, including the Ivy Creek Foundation, have joined together to design and implement celebratory and educational events to highlight the importance of the Rivanna River and its scenic river designation. Over the course of the year the Partners will plan and promote events/activities that celebrate the Rivanna and its scenic beauty. In addition, the Partners expect to create new multi-organizational event(s) to raise public awareness and engage the community in the care and protection of the Rivanna River and its tributaries. The Rivanna Conservation Society is facilitating the event and is staffing the new website [www.yearoftherivanna.org](http://www.yearoftherivanna.org).

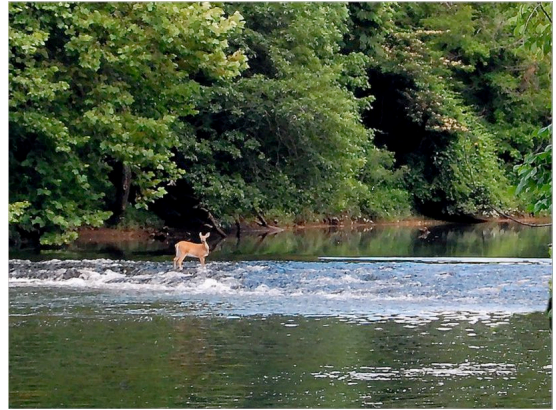


Photo: Cooling Off in the Rivanna, David Lyster

*All programs are free of charge unless otherwise indicated.*

### March 2010

#### 4 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

*Thursday, March 4, 7:00 pm*

Come hear Mark Bennet from Dadant & Sons Beekeeping Supplies speak to us about new beekeeping equipment. No charge. Meet in the Education Center.

#### 6 First Saturday Bird Walk

*Saturday, March 6, 7:30 am*

Join John Zimmerman for an early morning bird walk with the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

#### 7 Zero Garbage Challenge

*Sunday, March 7, 1:00 pm*

After spending a year without generating any garbage, Rose Brown will share tips and stories on Sunday March 7th from 1 to 3pm. All are welcome to come learn more about the Zero Garbage Challenge, ask questions, and have some garbage-related fun. Please rsvp to [zero.garbage.challenge@gmail.com](mailto:zero.garbage.challenge@gmail.com). Read more at <http://zerogarbagechallenge.info/>

#### 10 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting

*Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 pm*

Hear Tom Dierauf, retired VA Dept. of Forestry Research Forester and longstanding VNPS member speak about the Inventory of Plants now underway at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Building.

#### 11 Snowstorm Cleanup at Ivy Creek

*Thursday, March 11, 1:00 to 4:00 pm*

Enjoy the outdoors while we clear away the broken branches and other debris from our recent snowstorms. Wear appropriate attire. Contact [icf@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:icf@ivycreekfoundation.org) for questions.

#### 11 Monticello Bird Club Meeting

*Thursday, March 11, 7:00 pm*

Come enjoy Andrew Dolby's presentation on our local bird club's parent organization, the Virginia Society of Ornithology—its field trips, programs, and research—and also information about birdcalls, nests, and winter adaptations. Also get details about upcoming bird walks and field trips. Newcomers always welcome.

**16 Ivy Creek Volunteer Guide Training**

*Tuesday, March 16, 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](mailto:programs@ivycreekfoundation.org)

**Banff Mountain Film Festival**

Films on outdoor adventure and the environment will be presented at the Paramount, sponsored by Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. For more information, contact [john@brms.com](mailto:john@brms.com) or 977-4400. Proceeds benefit the Rivanna Trails Foundation.

**24 The Songs of Frogs and Toads**

*Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 pm*

What better way to celebrate the new season than to learn the sounds of spring? Michelle Prysby will present a program on local frogs and toads and how to identify their songs and calls. The event is free. Meet in the Education Building.

**Virginia Festival of the Book  
Virginia Master Naturalists Series  
March 17-21**

Well-known nature authors will read from their work at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Authors include: Marshall Faintich, *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen* on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm; Leonard Adkins, *Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail* on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm; Jonathan Alderfer, *Illustrated Birds of North America* on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm. At 4 pm authors includes: Art Evans, *What's Bugging You*, Fred First, *What We Hold in Our Hands*, and Diane Tennant, *The Barking Tree Frog and Other Curious Tales*.

**25 Ivy Creek Toddler Time**

*Thursday, March 25, 10:00 am*

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

**25 Green Hour for Families**

*Thursday, March 25, 3:30 pm*

An after-school program for families where participants will play nature games, learn songs, do crafts and hear stories, usually along a theme but not always. This is a full family participation activity for families with children of all ages. Meet at the Education Center. The event is free.

**27 Tracking and the Earth**

*Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am*

Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

For updates and additional events check out [ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar.html](http://ivycreekfoundation.org/calendar.html)

**28 Farm and Barn History Day**

*Sunday, March 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.

**April 2010**

**1 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**

*Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm*

Come hear Ann Harmon, President of the Virginia State Beekeepers Association, speak to the club on "Reducing Stress on Honeybees," Ann will guide the group on the finer points of hive management, as well as provide tips on how to maximize your honey harvest this season. Beginners

welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Building.

**3 First Saturday Bird Walk**

*Saturday, April 3, 7:30 am*

Spring migration will be the highlight of our April bird walk with Stauffer Miller of the Monticello Bird Club. Meet in the parking lot. Beginners welcome.

**8 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**

*Thursday, April 8, 7:00 pm*

Come see and hear Daphne Gemmill's slide presentation on the Flora and Fauna of our National Forests. This is based on an American Birding Association publication, *Birding in Forty National Forests and Grasslands*, which she edited. Meet in the Education Building. Newcomers always welcome.

**10 Streamwatch Training Workshop**

*Saturday, April 10, 10 am to 4 pm*

In this StreamWatch introductory training, learn the fundamentals of benthic invertebrate sampling to gauge water quality and stream health. Reservations are required due to limited class size. Contact Rose Brown at [rose@streamwatch.org](mailto:rose@streamwatch.org) or 962-3527. Meet in the Education Building at Ivy Creek. No charge.

**10 Beekeepers Hive Demonstration**

*Saturday, April 10, 11:00 am*

Learn how to set up a beehive from the Central Virginia Beekeepers Association. Meet at the southern end of the parking lot.

**11 Tracking and the Earth**

*Sunday, April 11, 9:00 am*

Join Hub Knott outdoors to search for signs of wildlife activity. Learn how to read the stories of animal life in the landscape of Ivy Creek. Meet at the barn. Co-sponsored with the Living Earth School.

**14 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**

*Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 pm*

Come hear Chris Asaro, Forest Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Forestry

inform us about the threat posed by insect pests at the monthly meeting of the Jefferson Chapter. Open to the public. Meet in the Education Building.

**17 Galaxies and Black Holes at Ivy Creek**

*Saturday, April 17, 7:30 pm*

Get close to the universe at Ivy Creek. After a short presentation in the Education Building, the Charlottesville Astronomical Society will introduce you to visible galaxies and black holes in the night sky from the open mowed area next to the barn. Bring your own telescope or look through the scopes provided. Use low beams or red flashlights only. Free and open to the public. Cloudy skies will cancel this event.

**18 Earth Week Eco-Fair**

*Sunday, April 18, 11-7 pm*

Ivy Creek Foundation will participate in the Earth Week Eco-Fair at the Charlottesville Pavilion on the downtown mall. Come and enjoy events, and workshops planned by organizations from around the region. More information at [www.earthweek.org](http://www.earthweek.org).

**24 Wildflower and Native Plants Walk**

*Saturday, April 24, 10:00 am*

Walk with botanist Tim Williams to see the spring wildflowers and early native plants of spring. Ephemeral wildflowers, ferns uncoiling fiddleheads and trees budding out are all here at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Cosponsored with the Virginia Native Plant Society. Meet outside the Education Center. Free and open to the public.

**Winetasting and Fundraiser**

On Saturday, April 24th, beginning at 2pm, Mountfair Vineyards will host a fundraiser for the Ivy Creek Foundation. Come enjoy a fun, family-friendly afternoon and evening while we enjoy the local wines of Mountfair Vineyards and the local sounds of Gillums Ridge. \$10 for adults; children free. Watch the website for more information.

**25 Natural History Day**  
*Sunday, April 25, 1:00 pm*  
Celebrate Earth Week with local environmental organizations and clubs for an afternoon of nature and fun at the Ivy Creek Natural Area and learn about all the wonderful opportunities for nature lovers in our community. Hands on fun for the whole family. The barn will be open to learn about the history of the farm. Meet in the Quiet Area outside of the Education Building.

**25 Native Plant Sale**  
*Sunday, April 25, 1:00 pm*  
Don't miss this unique opportunity to purchase garden grown native wildflowers, trees, and ferns from the *Jefferson Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society*. The event is free and held in the Education Building.

**29 Ivy Creek Toddler Time**  
*Thursday, April 29, 10:00 am*  
Introduce your toddler to nature with this short talk and trail walk for three to five year olds. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The event is free.

**29 Green Hour for Families**  
*Thursday, April 29, 3:30 pm*  
An after-school program for families where participants will play nature games, learn songs, do crafts and hear stories, usually along a theme but not always. This is a full family participation activity for families with children of all ages. Meet at the Education Center. The event is free.

## May 2010

**1 First Saturday Bird Walk**  
*Saturday, May 1, 7:30 am*  
Walk with Gretchen Gehrett of the Monticello Bird Club at the peak of spring warbler migration. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

**1 Wilderness First Aid Certification**  
**2 Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2**  
*8:30-5:30 pm each day*  
Learn how to deal with medical emergencies when you are out on the trail. Registration required. Fee includes books, handouts, and certification. For more information call (434) 760-HIKE or go to <http://www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa.htm>. 10% of fee becomes a donation to the Ivy Creek Foundation.

### Bioblitz

Albemarle County is requesting professional and amateur naturalists to help inventory flora and fauna in its newest park in White Hall, now in the planning stages. Data collection activities will take place throughout the day on May 1. For information, email Diana Foster at [dfoster@newventure.com](mailto:dfoster@newventure.com).

**6 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**  
*Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm*  
Beginners welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Building.

**8 Ivy Creek Volunteer Work Day**  
*Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to noon*  
Join volunteers to work on trimming and weeding around the Education Center and Quiet Area at Ivy Creek Natural Area. We'll also work on removing non-native invasives and trail maintenance. Meet outside the Education Center.

**12 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**  
*Wednesday, May 12, 7:30 pm*  
Hear Mike Hayslett, Naturalist-in-Residence, Sweet Briar College speak about native plants supporting wildlife at the monthly meeting of the Jefferson Chapter. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Building.

**13 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**  
*Thursday, May 13, 7:00 pm*  
Join us for a special night as members present their own pictures and videos. Free

and open to the public. Meet in the Education Building.

**15 Wildflower Walk**

*Saturday, May 15, 10:00 am*

Join Mary Lee Epps and Tana Herndon for a wildflower walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Good for all ages. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet by the kiosk near the parking lot. Free and open to the public.

**16 Butterflies of Ivy Creek**

*Sunday, May 16, 1:00 pm*

Join Mike Scott for the first butterfly walk of 2010. Start by meeting in the Education Building to see Mike's impressive display of the butterflies of Ivy Creek and for an introduction to identification skills. Continue on the trails with Mike. Fun for the whole family.

**22 Young Adult Nature Photography**

*Saturday, May 22, 2:00 pm*

Share ideas with Pearl Zmick (Young Adult prize winner of the Celebrating the Nature of Virginia Photography Contest) about how to view the natural world and capture these images in pictures. Bring your cameras or pictures or both to share. Free and open to the public. Meet at the Education Center.

**23 Learning the Native Trees of Virginia**

*Sunday, May 23, 2:00 pm*

Learn the trees of Ivy Creek using leaf, bark, branching, seed, flower, and other distinguishing characteristics. Join Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry on a Spring Walk. Meet by the kiosk.

**27 Ivy Creek Toddler Time**

*Thursday, May 27, 10:00 am*

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

**27 Green Hour for Families**

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**29 Farm and Barn History Day**

*Saturday, May 29, 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.

## June 2010

**3 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**

*Thursday, June 3, 7:00 pm*

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

**5 First Saturday Bird Walk**

*Saturday, June 5, 7:30 am*

Walk with Mary Janet Fowler of the Monticello Bird Club at the peak of spring warbler migration. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

### Coordinator's Corner

Mother Nature is stirring beneath the remaining snow at Ivy Creek. The spring ephemeral wildflowers will soon appear, and before you know it, the Christmas ferns will unroll their fiddleheads. We have scheduled many programs this spring for young and old alike. See our calendar for details.

Ivy Creek Foundation is built on the efforts of volunteers. By becoming a volunteer guide, you can make a difference for the children of our area. New guide training will begin on March 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like more information about becoming an Ivy Creek guide, please contact me at [programs@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:programs@ivycreekfoundation.org).

In the springtime, each day on the trail can offer new sights and sounds. Please join us often at Ivy Creek this season.



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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Charlottesville, VA  
Permit No. 299

*Change Service Requested*

**Membership Renewals and Recruitment:** Membership renewal letters went out in November. 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 2009-2010**

President: Victoria Dye	Treasurer: Jim Hutcherson	Dan Frisbee	Phil Stokes
Vice President: Liz Palmer	LoriAnne Barnett	Linda Goodling	Tex Weaver
Secretary: Susan Pleiss	Brad Conner	Samuel Lindblom	

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](mailto:icf@ivycreekfoundation.org) or visit our website at <http://ivycreekfoundation.org>



*Check the website for news on special events  
and other possible changes to the schedule.  
We hope to see you at Mountfair Vineyards  
on April 24<sup>th</sup> for our musical fundraiser!  
Please continue to send in your renewals!*