



Natural Area News

A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation
Volume 17, No. 2

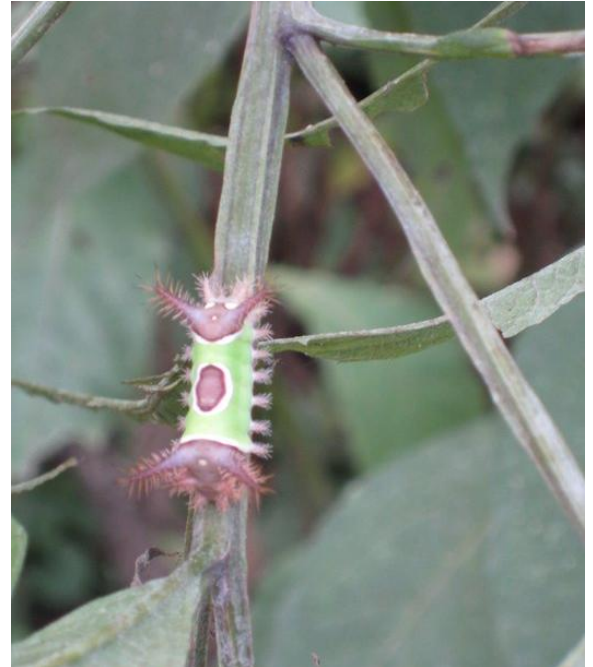
Fall Newsletter 2011

Exploring Nature at the Areas All Year Long

At Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas, people are able to explore nature all year long, either on their own or by participating in an education program. The mission of the Ivy Creek Foundation is to enrich lives by fostering environmental awareness through education and connecting the community with nature. This mission is at the center of everything our staff, board members and other volunteers do.

We had a wonderful summer full of butterfly, plant and other exploratory nature walks at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Many local residents were sighted, like this saddleback caterpillar (*Sibine stimulea*) pictured to the right – stinging to the touch, but beautiful to regard.

The fall promises a new season of walks and other educational programs. Please consider joining us for the upcoming Fruits and Flowers Plant Walk led by Mary Lee Epps on September 10th, 9am, at Ivy Creek, or later in the fall at Ragged Mountain for the Night Walk on October 29th, 7:30pm.



Ivy Creek Annual Meeting

Sunday, 2-4pm September 18th

On Sunday, September 18th, 2pm to 4pm, we will hold our Annual Meeting at the Ivy Creek Natural Area's Education Center.

At 2pm we will begin the business portion of the meeting where outgoing board members will be recognized and new board members will be voted in. We will then review the highlights of the past year as well plans for the coming year.

After refreshments, the program portion of the meeting will begin at 3pm. We are excited to have author Jean L. Cooper presenting "A Genealogical View of the Hydraulic Mills Community." Hope to see you there!

Director's Note

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! It has been a busy, productive summer at Ivy Creek. We are looking forward to the fall and have our well-known programs, like Junior Naturalists starting September 19th, lined up, as well as some exciting new programs, like TechnoTrees on October 11th.

I am happy to report that the barn project is moving ahead at full speed. In July, the Perry Foundation informed us they would award the Ivy Creek Foundation a \$25,000 grant, in honor of Francis Fife, to put toward our cost of renovating the barn. Many thanks to the Perry Foundation and Francis Fife! We have received a number of other generous donations that we will fully acknowledge when we reopen the barn in the spring.

Work on the barn should commence by the end of September. We will now turn our attention to funding other improvements to the barn, such as educational exhibits. Please let us know if you are interested in working with us on this!

As with the last newsletter, this one will be reaching roughly a third of our membership by email. Please let us know if you would like to join the electronic group!

Hope to see on September 18th at the Annual Meeting and wishing you a wonderful fall,

Karen

Become an Ivy Creek Nature Guide!

Each year approximately 2,000 school children explore the Ivy Creek Natural Area through our school tour program. From September 2010 to June 2011 the following volunteer guides gave generously of their time, energy, and love of nature to make these tours possible: **Adele Wood, Ann Dunn, Ann Vonnegut, Dede Smith, Eve Schwartz, Hugh Gildea, Janet Paisley, Judy Cahill, Keggie Mallett, Mack Dean, Marjie Giuliano, Mary Lee Epps, Nancy Neighbors, Phil Stokes, Phyllis White, Ronda Ellcessor, Ruth Douglas, Sharon Baiocco, Susan Parry, Tana Herndon, and Ted Peters.** Without their efforts, the school program would not be possible.



It is through a direct and positive experience of the natural world that the next generation will develop the knowledge, passion and wonder needed to meet the challenges of the future. Imagine coming across a baby eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) like the one pictured above and sharing it with a group of children!

Ivy Creek guides share the outdoors with local schoolchildren who visit the Ivy Creek Natural Area for scheduled one-hour tours. Groups are small (10 or fewer) and each is accompanied by a teacher or parent chaperone. The guide's only job is to share their knowledge and excitement about what is encountered in the natural world.

Guide training is given twice per year, one morning per week for eight weeks. Fall training begins Tuesday, September 13th at 9:30am. These sessions include not only natural history topics but also guidance on helping students experience nature directly through sight, sound, smell and touch. After this initial training period, trainees apprentice with more experienced guides before venturing out with their own groups. Don't worry. You won't need to know everything. No one does!

For more information, contact Bruce Gatling-Austin by calling (434) 973-7772 or emailing programs@ivycreekfoundation.org, or visit <http://ivycreekfoundation.org/guide.html>.

Whales Coming to Ivy Creek?

In the months to come, we hope to have local artist, Tom Givens, build a sign for the Education Center. You have surely seen his whale tails in town, and we are looking forward to seeing what he will create for the natural area. Pictured right is Phil Stokes holding up a mock-up of the sign so the Building and Grounds Committee could consider the size and design of the sign at their August meeting.

To share this experience with the Ivy Creek community, Tom will invite the public to come observe him at work at some stage in the project. Please keep an eye on the website for an announcement about this. For more information about Tom and his work, go to <http://thomasgivens.com>.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is also discussing the construction of a second trellis for the front of the building. Please be in touch if you would like to help out!



Natural Area Trail Work

Trail stewards and volunteers continued their dedicated work on the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain trail systems over the summer. Many thanks to our generous trail stewards: **Breyette Lorantz, Dan Nissen, Elaine Page, Frank Wilczek, Jane Kopp, Jackie Heath, Jennifer Whitenack, Joe Gould, John Mossholder, Lindy Auberry, Mike Toth, Patty Mitchell, Peter Clark, and Ralph Hall** and trail volunteers: **Dan Bieker, Howard Davis, Peter Dutnell, and Phil Stokes**. Thanks to all their work, our trails are looking great going into the fall!

Fall Ivy Creek Work Days will be held on Thursdays, October 20th and November 17th, starting at 9am. An Invasives Work Day will be held on Saturday, November 12th, starting at 9am. On Saturday, October 15th at 9am, Ivy Creek is cosponsoring an Invasives Plant Walk with the Virginia Native Plant Society. This would be a great way to learn about the plants you could be attempting to remove at the Invasives Work Day!

To sign up to participate in an Ivy Creek Work Day or to volunteer as a Trail Steward, or just for more information, contact us at icf@ivycreekfoundation.org or (434) 973-7772.



Ivy Creek Butterfly Garden

The butterfly garden at Ivy Creek has been progressing nicely this summer thanks to our dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers come from the Master Gardeners, the Master Naturalists and beyond. Linda Birch is pictured above hard at work over the summer. A Monarch caterpillar (*Danaus plexipus*) from the garden is pictured left. The garden will continue to be a work in progress. We look forward to seeing volunteers in the fall. Over the winter we will be working on the plant tags and the educational brochure. The garden is sponsored by Piedmont Garden Club with grants from the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and the Association for Butterflies. Contact Linda Marchman at socialbutterflie@embarqmail.com or (434) 823-3666 to help out!



Panorama Wood Chip Donation

You may have noticed the wood chips under the shelter between the Education Center and the butterfly garden. Many thanks to Steve Murray at Panorama Paydirt for generously donating the cubic yard of wood chips, and to Peter Clark for coming up with the idea!

Ivy Creek T-Shirts Have Arrived!

Ivy Creek t-shirts will be available at the Annual Meeting on September 18th for donations of \$15 or more. After the Annual Meeting, t-shirts will be available by contacting us on (434) 973-7772 or at icf@ivycreekfoundation.org and at every Ivy Creek program.

Coordinator's Corner

The natural world is a source of inspiration year round. Now that the heat of summer has broken, a walk outdoors is pleasurable at all hours. The fall wildflowers and the seeds of the trees are on view. For those of us who have somehow forgotten the power of the natural world, Mother Nature has given us a good shake with a rare earthquake and a summer dousing with the rain and wind of Hurricane Irene. Come to Ivy Creek by yourself or with friends and family and be inspired again. The acorns are swelling, the goldenrods have burst and many birds are making ready to migrate south. Pick one of our educational programs or just come for a walk and renew your connection to the natural world.

Bruce

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

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

Return Service Requested

Ivy Creek Foundation

Our Mission: To enrich lives by fostering environmental awareness through education and connecting the community with nature.

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	Brad Conner	Linda Goodling	Mitch Sams
Treasurer: Jim Hutcherson	Howard Davis	David Hogg	Phil Stokes
Secretary: Tex Weaver	Dan Frisbee	Edwina St. Rose	

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>



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 will be working hard to get the funding to repair the barn and developing new displays and programs to make best use of it when reopened.

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 _____

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <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 |