



Natural Area News

A publication of the Ivy Creek Foundation
Volume 16, No. 2

Fall Newsletter 2010

Ivy Creek Foundation Annual Meeting, Sunday, September 12th, 1-3pm

We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 12th. Starting at 1pm, Victoria Dye will present the formal business of the Board, saying an appreciative farewell to outgoing Board Members and giving a warm welcome to those joining us this year. We will also share a few new developments, but quickly move to the primary focus of the day – yes, the barn.

Some of you may know that the barn was closed to the public following an inspection in July. While we had been working steadily toward formulating a plan to renovate the barn, this closure has brought a new dynamic to the process! At the Annual Meeting, we will share with members as much as we know about the plans and cost to renovate the barn, and hope to provide a rough timeline for the work and the reopening of the barn. Please come and ask any questions you may have and share any advice you may have or help you can offer!

The Ivy Creek barn is one our most valued assets. It was built in the early 1930s by Conly Greer, Hugh Carr's son-in-law, as a modern, up-to-date facility. It housed horses, cows, pigs, and the winter food supply necessary for successful livestock farming. Conly Greer, an agricultural extension agent in Albemarle County, also used it as a model for other farms in the area. While we are dedicated to renovating the barn for many reasons, this rich family history lies at the heart of our commitment.

At the Annual Meeting, a representative from Albemarle County will update us on the planning process to date. The work on the barn will most likely be overseen by a local firm the County works with on other local projects.

Alec Cargile, a Board Member of Preservation Piedmont and President of Lithic Construction, will share with us his experience with local preservation projects and his assessment of the Ivy Creek barn.

Several Carr family descendents will also join us and share their memories of times spent on River View Farm. Family members we have talked with have expressed true appreciation for our commitment to the barn. Please join us on the 12th!



Director's Note

As we enjoy the cool weather of these last days of summer, our early hot summer seems long ago. We have a very busy season ahead. The Annual Meeting is around the corner. Membership renewals will go out soon. And we will be launching the Foundation's largest fundraising campaign ever this fall.

The bat shelter was successfully moved to its new home. Thanks so much to Dan Bieker, Derek van der Linde, Phil Stokes and Robin Eastham for their contributions and hard work. We are hoping to see a colony of bats there next year!

The closure of the barn in July was an unexpected event that presents challenges we will tackle to this season. If you have any interest in helping the foundation with this endeavor, please be in touch!

As ever, thanks go out to our trail stewards and other volunteers. Your work is vital to our stewardship of the natural areas. We had an excellent response to our plea for summer help on the trails! We will need extra help this fall with the removal of felled trees, so anyone interested please let us know.

Finally, please join us on September 12th for the 2010 Annual Meeting. We are looking forward to hearing what local experts have to say about the barn and are very excited and thankful at the prospect of having an opportunity to hear from Carr family descendents about their childhood experiences at River View Farm. We hope to see you there too!

Wishing you the best for fall,

Karen

A Big Day for Box Turtles

Mary Lee Epps

On our plant survey walks at Ivy Creek, we occasionally see box turtles. This summer we spotted individual turtles on three separate walks, two in June and one in early August. Then, on August 18, we saw six distinct individuals within a span of two or three hours. These included one lone individual, a pair consisting of one full-sized individual and a second half the size, and finally a group of three: a male and female mating and a second clearly vanquished male on its side next to the pair and withdrawn into its shell. At first, we thought it might be dead, but we could glimpse occasional movements within its almost closed shell. The copulating male was reared up on the end of its shell



Pair of box turtles with vanquished mate on his side.
Photo by Tana Herndon

and most of the time fully out, despite active photo taking by one of our group. He remained out of his shell and in this position for the full 10 or 15 minutes that we watched. A couple of times he pulled in slightly and briefly in response to our group. However, he seemed to be much less disturbed by us than by the second male on its side nearby. Every time this second male made timid motions to emerge from its shell, the copulating male extended its neck still further and toward its enemy in a threatening manner. This was enough to cause the rival to retreat into its shell and lie quietly.

All of this raised many questions. Why did we see so many turtles on this one day? Wasn't it late for them to be mating, so close to the end of the summer? How on earth do they ever find each other? A little research on the web suggested answers to some of these questions.

Why did we see so many turtles on this one day? This summer has been hot and dry, but there had been a light rain the night before our walk and the day was damp and overcast with temperatures in the 70s. Apparently, in very hot weather, box turtles become less active, restricting their activity to mornings and after rains. This cool, wet morning must have been a rare opportunity for them to get out and about.

Wasn't it late for them to be mating, so close to the end of the summer? While box turtles may mate as late as October, the females can carry the fertilized eggs from a single mating for up to four years. Almost certainly, this lady will wait until next late spring or early summer at the earliest to make her nest. She will scratch out a shallow depression, lay three to eight eggs in it, and then carefully cover them, leaving them to incubate, possibly for as long as three months. She may go on to lay several other clutches before the season ends.



Successful male threatening his rival.
Photo by Tana Herndon

How on earth do they ever find each other? A likely answer is less apparent for this question. However, I did find that most box turtles have a home range of only a few acres, suggesting a fairly dense population in the area near Martin's Branch where we saw our three individuals. That source (Smithsonian) also stated, "Home ranges of different individuals overlap frequently, regardless of age or sex. The turtles are often found together and show no antagonism towards each other." Obviously, this last statement does not hold when there is competition for a female at mating time.

Sources: Smithsonian National Zoological Park, "Fact Sheets: Box Turtle," <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Reptiles/Amphibians/Facts/FactSheets/Easternboxturtle.cfm>, Downloaded August 19, 2010.
Chesapeake Bay Program, Bay Field Guide, "Eastern Box Turtle", http://www.chesapeakebay.net/bfg_eastern_box_turtle.aspx?menuitem=14460 Downloaded August 19, 2010.

IVY CREEK FOUNDATION 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 _____

- \$10 Student
- \$35 Contributing
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$25 Regular
- \$50 Subscribing
- \$250 Donor
- \$1,000 Patron

Memories of Jane Moore

By Bess Murray

Jane Moore, who died on 15 August, was one of the most loyal friends that the Ivy Creek Natural Area has ever had. Self-effacing and humble, she was sweet and charming, but could also be quite tough and principled when any issue came up concerning conservation and the natural world. She was a founder member of the Ivy Creek Foundation Board and one of its early secretaries, a job she took unwillingly but performed with literacy and efficiency. When we were reluctantly planning the construction of a parking lot at the Area, she stood up for the protection of a small, rather scruffy honey locust tree. It has now grown into a big beautiful tree among the other donated plantings, and I think of Jane every time I pass it. She was always happiest talking about the wildlife of the area, and the efforts to keep ICNA as wild as possible in perpetuity. She was fascinated by every wild event that happened there. As Coordinator of ICNA for ten years, I was often alone in my Barn office, and when “something happened” outdoors, Jane was the first person I called; we have shared so many natural history stories.

One of my favorite stories was the time when a woman came running out of the woods, shouting that she was being chased by a wild turkey. I soothed her into her car, turning to meet a group of touring third graders, followed, not chased, but closely followed by, yes, a wild turkey. The turkey and I saw the children onto their bus and were left looking at each other quizzically, so I picked her up and carried her back to the Barn, and, of course, called Jane. “Do you know anything about a wild turkey who’s acting rather tame?” I asked. “Oh yes, that’s Miss Newcomb” came the reply “Do you have any idea where she is?” “Indeed I do, she’s under my left arm”, I said rather jerkily as the bird bounced a bit. “Oh hang on, Bedford and I will be right over.” And they were, with a box and the story. After a forest fire, which destroyed a lot of wildlife, a firefighter pocketed two abandoned turkey eggs, forgetting them until his coat started cheeping. The young turkeys were raised at the Wildlife Center, and Ed Clark brought one, Miss Newcomb, to Jane’s land at Shack Mountain hoping to re-introduce her to the wild. It didn’t quite work! Miss Newcomb spent the night in my garage and then returned to the Center, eventually finding a home at a nearby animal facility, where I heard a rumor that she fell in love with a one-legged goose.

Jane called my husband Jim and I with all kinds of questions and sightings, a bear on her lawn, snake eggs hatching, flying squirrels in an outbuilding, a spotted salamander in the window well. We had so many good times together, all of them connected in some way with Natural History and Ivy Creek. I am going to miss her very much.

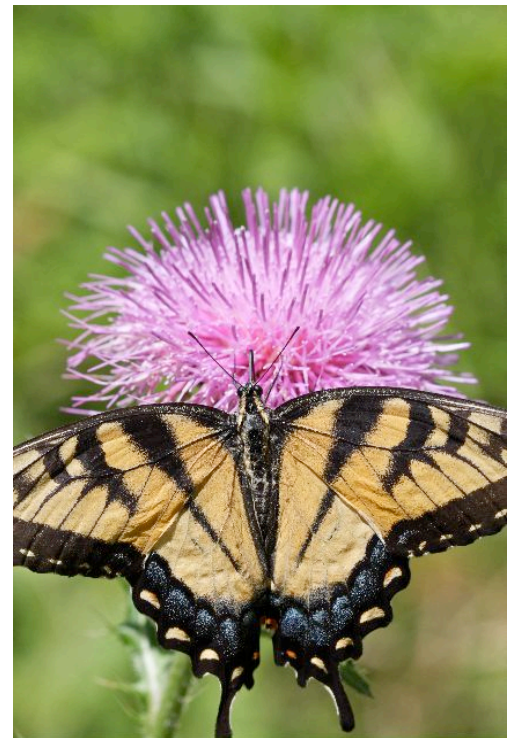
Coordinator’s Corner

Fall can be a time for reflection as we pause to consider the natural year, which will end with the first frost. We had long hot spells and significant dryness in the summer that made me want to venture out only early in the day. But the tiger swallowtails seemed more numerous than usual. The hickories are abundant with nuts. The wingstems and the goldenrod are bursting with color.

On a longer timeline, I appreciate those people who came over thirty years ago and worked hard to preserve this place so it could be shared with the local community. The foundation’s role has been a powerful one in connecting people with the natural world at a slow pace and in an intimate context. The regular environmental education programs have benefited the community immeasurably both for the young and the old. Whether you are interested in the flora or the fauna, Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas make the connection. Indeed, without the Foundation, there would be no trails or access at Ragged Mountain and Ivy Creek would be a housing development.

Enjoy the fall but remember the past and consider how you can give to the future. There are many programs to help out with this fall from Junior Naturalists to School Tour Guides. If you are a quieter sort, consider helping us maintain the connection through trail maintenance or invasive removal. We can also use your funding for staff time to coordinate all of this and make it happen.

Most importantly, make your own connection to nature on the trails or in an education program.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*)
visiting a Pasture Thistle (*Cirsium pumilum*).
Photo by Tony Russell

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

September 2010

- 1 Nighthawk Migration: Circus in the Sky**
Wednesday, September 1, 6:30 pm
This is the second of two opportunities to join members of the Monticello Bird Club in watching the nighthawk's acrobatics as it does its aerial feeding on hunting circuits from the reservoir to native grass field. Meet in the parking lot of Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 2 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting**
Thursday, September 2, 7:00 pm
"Winter Beekeeping Preparation: The steps you take now can determine your bees' success or failure over the winter." Beginners welcome. No charge. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Find out the latest at our website at <http://centralvirginiabeekeepers.org>
- 4 First Saturday Bird Walk**
Saturday, September 4, 7:30 am
Come join Leigh Surdukowski for an early morning bird walk. Cosponsored by the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 8 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**
Wednesday, September 8, 7:30 pm
Listen to Katie Burke speak on The Ecological History of the American Chestnut. Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 9 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**
Thursday, September 9, 7:00 pm
Learn about the birds and bird habitat of the Culpeper Basin of northern Virginia. Mary Elfner will present about their present as well as future difficulties they face. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

- 12 Ivy Creek Foundation Annual Meeting**
Sunday, September 12, 1:00 pm
Hear the historic Riverview barn's past. Listen to the Foundation's hopes and plans for the future of the barn. Give us your feedback. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 14 Ivy Creek Guide Training**
Tuesday, September 14, 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 Center. Free. For more information contact Bruce Gatling-Austin at programs@ivycreekfoundation.org

**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 20th. 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*

- 18 Plant Walk**
Saturday, September 18, 10:00 am
Enjoy the colors of the fall on a plant walk with Ruth Douglas from the Virginia Native Plants Society. We'll see yellow wingstems, white rabbit tobacco, orange jewelweed as

well as all the multi-colored leaves of the fall trees. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet by the kiosk next to the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

25 Fall Ivy Creek Work Day

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 am

Help control non-native invasive plants in this morning. After a quick review of invasives and the tools for removal, we'll spend an hour or two working on a trail. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet at the Barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

30 Ivy Creek Toddler Time

Thursday, September 30, 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.

October 2010

2 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, October 2, 7:30 am

Walk with Peter Brask for an early autumn bird walk. Cosponsored by the *Monticello Bird Club*. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

**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.

2 Photography Walk

Saturday, October 2, 10:00 am

Bring your camera and join Nayantara Kabir for a relaxed walk through the woods. We'll start in the Education Center, and then venture out to explore nature. We'll learn to see with new eyes, conveying moods with creative

composition and lighting. Absolute beginners encouraged. Please call 434-465-1509 if you have questions.

3 Monarchs on the Move

Sunday, October 3, 3 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. *Cosponsored by the Rivanna Master Naturalists*. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area off of Earlysville Road.

7 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 7:00 pm

Beginners welcome to our October meeting. No charge. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Find out the latest at <http://centralvirginiabeekeepers.org>

9 Invasives Plant Walk

Saturday, October 9, 10:00 am

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 Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area. *Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society*.

For updates and additional events check out ivycreekfoundation.org/education/calendar.html

10 Insect Walk

Sunday, October 10, 1:00 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.

- 13 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting**
Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 pm
 Helen Flamini will speak about efforts to plan for a botanical garden in McIntire Park. Meetings are free and open to all plant enthusiasts. Meet in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 14 Monticello Bird Club Meeting**
Thursday, October 14, 7:00 pm
 Listen to Jim Nix talking about his trip to South America's Colombia this past spring. Jim will bring his usual sense of good humor. Beginners welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 16 Plant Walk**
Saturday, October 16, 10:00 am
 Enjoy the colors of the fall on a plant walk with Tim Williams from the Virginia Native Plants Society. We'll see yellow wingstems, white rabbit tobacco, orange jewelweed as well as all the multi-colored leaves of the fall trees. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet by the kiosk next to the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 16 StreamWatch Training Workshop**
Saturday, October 16, 10:00 am
 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.
- 23 Wilderness First Aid Certification**
Weekend, October 23-24, 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.*

- 23 Invasive Plant Removal Work Day**
Saturday, October 23, 9:00 am
 Help control non-native invasive plants in this morning. After a quick review of invasives and the tools for removal, we'll spend an hour or so working on one trail. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet at the Barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area.
- 23 Ragged Mountain Natural Area Moonlit Walk**
Saturday, October 23, 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 Natural Area can be found at ivycreekfoundation.org/RMNA.html.
- 28 Ivy Creek Toddler Time**
Thursday, October 28, 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.
- 30 Drawing from Nature**
Saturday, October 30, 10:00 am
 Join local artist Lee Alter to explore the art of sketching in a beautiful location at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Bring paper, pencils, and a drawing board if you have one. This offering is free to the public. Meet in the Education Center at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

Check the ivycreekfoundation.org website for Brown College Visiting Environmental Writers and Scholars (ViEWS) Lecture Series date for environmental writer John Lane. See his website at <http://www.kudzutelegraph.com>

November 2010

4 Central Virginia Beekeepers Meeting

Thursday, November 4, 7:00 pm

Beginners welcome to our September meeting. No charge. Meet in the Education Center. Find out the latest at our website at <http://centralvirginiabeekeepers.org>

6 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, November 6, 7:30 am

Walk with Dave Hogg for a late autumn bird walk. Cosponsored by the *Monticello Bird Club*. Beginners are always welcome. Meet in the parking lot at Ivy Creek Natural Area.

6 Trees in Winter

Saturday, November 6, 9:30 am

Learn the finer details of tree identification. It's not all about the leaves! Tony Russell will teach us trees by twigs, winter buds, and bark. We'll start in the Education Center and then continue outside weather permitting.

7 Children's Photography Walk with Kabir

Sunday, November 7, 2:00 pm

We will meet in the education center then go together on an adventure to find the most interesting images we can capture and to see how many creatures we can spot. We will discuss our experiences at the end of the walk. Wild imaginations a plus. Each child will be given a disposable camera (Parents are responsible for processing.)

10 Virginia Native Plant Society Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 pm

Come hear a program geared to local plant enthusiasts. Meetings are free and open in the Education Center at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

11 Monticello Bird Club Meeting

Thursday, November 11, 7:00 pm

Hear Mike Wilson from the William and Mary Conservation Center lecturing on "Silent Night: the Decline of North American Nightjar Populations." Nightjars are birds such as Whip poor Will and Common Nighthawk. Beginners welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet in the Education Center.

14 Ivy Creek Natural Area Forest Walk

Sunday, November 14, 2:00 pm

Join Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry on an autumn walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area to learn to identify trees indigenous to Central Virginia. Meet in the parking lot of Ivy Creek Natural Area.

20 Peninsula Trail Adventure Walk

Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am

We'll visit this remote and unique area with grand reservoir views on a walk with Phil Stokes. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet by the kiosk next to the parking lot.

27 Give Thanks for Ivy Creek Work Day

Saturday, November 27, 9:00 am

Help control non-native invasive plants this morning. After a quick review of invasives and the tools for removal, we'll spend an hour or two working on one trail. Cosponsored by the Virginia Native Plants Society. Meet at the Barn.

27 Jupiter at Ivy Creek

Saturday, November 27, 7:00 pm

Learn the latest about Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, and its dozens of moons in a one-hour presentation in the Education Center. Afterwards, the Charlottesville Astronomical Society will introduce you to objects in the late autumn 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.

December 2010

4 First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, December 4, 7:30 am

Come join Teresa Shaner for an early morning bird walk. Cosponsored by the Monticello Bird Club. Beginners always welcome. Meet in the parking lot.

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

Help Rebuild the Ivy Creek Barn: We are still waiting for details about how much it will cost to renovate the barn built by Hugh Carr's son-in-law and Mary Carr's husband Conly Greer in the 1930s. But we know the project will be costly and challenging! Please consider making a financial contribution to this important effort and help spread the word about it in case you know others who may be able to help. And, as ever, if you know someone who does not yet know about these wonderful natural areas 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

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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>



*Membership renewals will be sent out in October.
Please send in your contributions as early as you can!
We hope to see you at the 2010 Annual Meeting
on Sunday, September 12th, 1 - 3pm!*