Ivy Creek Foundation
2017 Annual Report
	naturally...

Connecting people to our lands, present and past.
ICF President’s Message

I am pleased to serve as President of the Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF) for 2017-2018. Like many of you, I am so thankful to have the Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA) in my life. The park is a gem that provides a counterpoint to our busy urban lives. The well-maintained hiking trails and diverse flora and fauna provide year-round interest for people of all ages. As Friends of Ivy Creek, we all contribute to this wonderfully successful center of environmental stewardship and education. I want to thank each and every one of you for your contributions!

I am also pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Kate Mallek. We are delighted to welcome Kate to our organization and are excited about the skills and energy that Kate brings to ICNA. Kate grew up in Albemarle County and has strong family ties here. She brings a solid background in non-profit management and environmental education. If you have not had an opportunity to meet Kate, please stop by her office in the Education Building to introduce yourself.

With Kate’s able assistance, we are looking forward to 2018, which will be an exciting year for the Foundation. Planning is underway to upgrade the kiosk and to provide new natural and cultural history information about the park and to improve the core visitor arrival and orientation area.

Several groups of Friends are working to piece together the history of River View Farm and the Carr and Greer families who lived on the property before it became part of ICNA. The goal is to share the rich cultural history of the families and this landmark farm with the community as part of a broader effort involving preservation and interpretation of the River View Farm house. These efforts will play an important role in our plans for marking and celebrating the 40th anniversary of Ivy Creek Foundation in 2019. Stay tuned for a year of events, which will kick-off in August of this year!

There is something for everyone at Ivy Creek. With our small staff, we rely on a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who enjoy working outside, perusing archival materials, leading tours, and everything in between. I find great personal satisfaction in volunteering—it is a great way to meet people with similar interests, while learning something new. I urge everyone to give it a try. Kate will be happy to connect you with something that will interest you.

Come out and see us this spring at Ivy Creek, we look forward to seeing you there.

John Edelen
President, Ivy Creek Foundation

ICF Highlights

ICF depends on the generous participation of members and volunteers to steward our properties, provide public programming, and keep our organization invigorated and engaged. The pages that follow summarize highlights of the 2017 calendar year, unless otherwise noted, and the work conducted to fulfill our mission and plan for a bright and sustainable future.
Welcome to the new ICF Executive Director

Thank you for the kind welcome you have given me over the last few months. It has been such a pleasure to meet so many people who are interested and invested in nature, our environment, and the historic and cultural resources present at ICNA.

Ivy Creek is indeed a very special place. We see regular visitors from throughout central Virginia, and on a continual basis I meet out of town visitors from a wide variety of locations who are in the local area and looking for a place to be outside and closer to nature. The varied terrain, the biodiversity, the birds and other creatures, all draw people to stop here and to take a walk, to breathe some fresh air, or to just get a glimpse of the Blue Ridge on a clear day.

We look forward in the coming months and years to sharing more of the history of River View Farm and the Carr and Greer Families with the community. The ability of visitors to stop and walk in history’s footsteps provides personal perspective on the past.

2019 is the Ivy Creek Foundation’s 40th Anniversary. We have plans in the works for a year long celebration filled with art, nature, and history. We hope you will join us.

We look forward to seeing you soon, at our events or out on the trails,

Kate

In 2017, ICF began the work of implementing the Landscape Plan prepared by landscape architects Sue Nelson and Warren Byrd. The ICF Board established three working groups to address aspects of the project, including design of the new kiosk, interpretation of the farmhouse, and improvements to the entrance road and parking. ICF honored Sue and Warren for their contribution with an original artwork commissioned from botanical illustrator Lara Gastinger.
YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Our Youth Programs serve three different age groups. Little Naturalist (ages 3 to 5) attendance remained steady as our leader and program founder Rachel Floyd stepped back, replaced by four energetic volunteers who offer the program twice every month. (Thank you, Rachel for helping to create this wonderful program.)

In 2017, with the addition of husband and wife team Steve Pullinger and Deborah Andersen, the Junior Naturalist program expanded into a second group for 9 to 12 years old. The group enjoys hikes with creek study, wildlife and habitat exploration, nature-based art, service projects, and an introduction to primitive skills, such as making shelters and water/food sourcing.

Thanks to our volunteer trail guides, our robust Field Trip program continues to provide experiential natural history programs for area school children and home schoolers, as well as extracurricular groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. For some of these children, this time in nature is transformative and we hear that it is one of the more memorable events of their school year.

Visitation numbers remained relatively steady throughout 2017, with field trip participation continuing to increase from 40 to 43 (+8%). Total student numbers decreased from 1593 to 1534 (-4%); however, this may have been the result of Albemarle County’s dropping one field trip. Participation by private schools, Charlottesville City Schools, pre-schools, and others either stayed the same or increased.

ADULT & FAMILY PROGRAMMING

Our public Barn History Program was enlivened this year by the talents of a half dozen high school students who trained and served as barn docents. This allowed us to open the barn more frequently and for longer hours. Thanks and kudos to these students, who have since graduated.

An advanced training program for our volunteer barn docents was provided. We delved more deeply into agricultural details to help tell the history of the barn, as well as deeper knowledge of the historical and natural history displays. This more detailed knowledge allows the docents to craft a story relating to interests and questions of the individual visitor, helping the visitor to connect more deeply with the place.

ICF also welcomed Dan Kulund and his World of Walking and Motos to our program offerings. This 90-minute weekly workshop weaves simple movements and hiking stick skills into an otherwise ordinary walk. Dan has been attracting seniors to ICNA through his program offerings at the Senior Center.

“ Ivy Creek offers the perfect intersection for kids and nature - near enough to area schools and homes to reach quickly after school, but secluded enough to allow for some immersive hikes and creek play. At Ivy Creek, Junior Naturalists are able to explore a variety of habitats and learn how to be good stewards of the natural world in “real dirt time.”

Deborah Andersen, Outdoor Educator/Consultant
NEW PROGRAM...

**Voices from the Land**

This past autumn, volunteers from the Ivy Creek Foundation (ICF) and the Rivanna Master Naturalists (RMN) took Voices from the Land programming on the road to four regional Boys & Girls Clubs (B&GC). Voices from the Land is an exploration and celebration of natural landscapes incorporating art, oral and written language, photography, technology and the dramatic arts. ICF had successfully applied for and received full funding for the program from Karyn & Bryce Smith - Prana Fund and BAMA Works, both administered by the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation.

In twelve to fifteen fun, active weekly sessions, under the guidance of 29 trained volunteers, more than one hundred young people found inspiration in their local forests as artists, photographers, poets, graphic artists, and performers. In the style of artist 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 ICNA where the children explored trails and learned about the history of the land and River View Farm. Using these insights, the children worked in teams to create ephemeral art along the trails, captured in photographs that link to the poems they subsequently created about the art. On top of all that, the children learned some basic performance skills, played with language skills for their poetry, and, of course, enjoyed pizza.

The children and their constant team of core volunteers brought their photographs of their art back to their clubs, where they polished their poems, created posters, and prepared for a culminating celebration where the children performed their poetry and shared their posters with family and peers at their clubs.

Each child left with a poster to take home. We are creating a photo book to document this journey and share with all four Clubs and sponsors. Staff and administration of the B&GC had nothing but praise for the success of the Voices program and are grateful for the warm and encouraging mentoring that provided more than 1300 hours of volunteer time.

By any measure, *Voices from the Land* was a grand success! We are truly grateful to Karyn & Bruce Smith – Prana Fund and BAMA Works, whose generous grants made the program possible.

**Ivy Creek Included in Smithsonian Study**

In 2017, Ivy Creek Natural Area was included in the Virginia Working Landscapes program, a biodiversity survey effort being conducted by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. The Institute serves as an umbrella for the Smithsonian’s global effort to conserve species and train future generations of conservationists. The Institute selected grasslands as the initial focus of this project because they are associated with a known suite of declining species in need of further research. The survey will be conducted over an extended period with data collection on indicator species of birds, plants, and pollinators and their response to different land management practices.
ICNA hosted a total of 51,125 vehicles in 2017, a nearly 5% increase over last year’s total.

**EDUCATION**

**Highlights** from the efforts of this dedicated group of volunteers include:

- Broadened local understanding of early farming practices in Albemarle County by collecting oral histories and pursuing research into early records.
- Developed an advanced docent training program.
- Conducted new barn history tours.
- Improved barn exhibits to enhance visitor understanding of both early dairy farming and local natural history.
- Developed online story-telling maps of River View Farm and ICNA to illustrate land ownership and land use of the property over time.
- Initiated a document collection, digitization, and archiving project for materials relating to River View Farm and ICF history through the efforts of a new Archives Task Force.
- Developed an audio tour featuring stories of the property’s cultural and natural history that visitors can enjoy while walking the trails.
- Organized five Ivy Talks on topics related to African American history, natural history, and pre-WWII farming. Talks, open to the public, were recorded and made available on the ICF website.

**Goals** for 2018

- To offer an “Ivy Creek Farm Day,” a new event for families and friends to explore the history of local farming, River View Farm, and conservation. Fun activities, such as learning to milk a cow with our new, life-size, fiberglass friend Tillie, will be the focus of Farm Day.
- To make structural improvements to the barn so that the loft can be opened to the public at designated times.
- To develop additional audio tours.
- To publish Natural History Notes by Bess Murray, based on selected transcripts of radio programs by one of ICF’s early directors.

“People who know Ivy Creek love it with different passions, but love it dearly. Once I came out of an ICF Board meeting, my arms full of notebooks, and a man who had been walking the trails stopped and said, “Thank you and the others for all you do to make this place what it is! There is no place to better feel and tell the story of African American history in Albemarle County and no place that offers a greater richness to the nature-hungry folks in our area.”

Alice Cannon, past Board Member and Education Chair
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Dedicated members of the Buildings and Grounds committee, led by ICF Board member Phil Stokes, spend countless hours each season keeping the ICNA trails clear and the footing sure, repairing bridges, signs, and benches, mowing the fields, maintaining vibrant display gardens, and ensuring that the buildings are in good working order. Volunteers of all ages are instrumental in ensuring the success of these efforts.

**Highlights**

- Skilled volunteers rebuilt the School Trail bridge, adding cedar handrails and oak decking, and repaired numerous benches.
- The Butterfly Garden was redesigned and replanted. Non-native plants were removed and more than 400 new plants were installed during Spring and Fall workdays with the help of more than 20 volunteers and several generous donors. Even though it was a “construction zone” for much of the year, common milkweed, butterfly milkweed, and orange coneflower put on a beautiful show!
- Several Eagle Scout projects were completed at ICNA, including the installation of stairs at the start of the red trail and building three owl boxes and putting them up.
- Volunteer workdays focused on replacing junction posts, trail guide posts, and erosion control water bars.
- The cable lighting system in the barn was extended to better illuminate the farm implement display area.
- Trail monitors faithfully maintained the trails, clearing vegetation and fallen limbs.
- Invasive plant control continued with the assistance of Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards, United Way Day of Caring volunteers, UVA’s APO service fraternity, and Triple C campers, as well as grant funding provided by Dominion Power and two individuals.

LANDSCAPE PLAN

The ICF, with a core of enthusiastic volunteers and with strong support from Albemarle County Parks & Recreation staff, is moving forward with implementing the plan.

**Highlights**

- Formal presentation of the landscape plan to Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and Charlottesville City Council to solicit approval and financial support.
- Received kudos from County and City officials and staff for ICF’s thorough analysis of issues concerning visitor experiences to ICNA and for improvement strategies.
- Received strong support from the County and City regarding the importance of preserving the River View Farm farmhouse as a significant feature of a rare historical African American farmstead.
- Met with County and City Parks & Recreation staff to move forward specific aspects of the plan, in particular, assessment of the farmhouse, protection of the house from further deterioration, and a redesign of the information kiosk.

**Goals** for 2018

- To assess historical and physical aspects of the Carr-Greer farmhouse and create a sustainable vision for its future use and maintenance.
- To improve the design and contents of interpretive signage for ICNA and River View Farm.
- To identify potential funding, cost-sharing opportunities, and an appropriate timetable for plan implementation.
The Development & Communications Committee continues its efforts to spread the word about the Ivy Creek Foundation’s mission and good works among its members and the public alike. In this role, the Committee implemented a new “Friends of Ivy Creek” member drive centered on engaging with visitors at ICNA, and this project yielded more than 25 new members. The committee helped to refine the offerings on the new website, and a clear visual identity was developed for the Foundation that appears consistently on the site and in our publications and correspondence. Throughout the year, the Committee has supported ICF staff in the implementation of a new donor/member tracking and communications system that further increases our effectiveness in both communications and fundraising. Looking forward, we plan to add a volunteer hours tracking system, which will enable ICF to better leverage our many volunteer hours as match for foundation grants.

As we plan for 2018, we will continue to strive to improve our educational programs and activities, enhance buildings and grounds, and increase the efficiency of our operations. To that end, we will seek funds for both our operating budget and for special projects and initiatives through grant applications, membership and fund drives, planned estate gifts, and other sources of revenue.

**FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

ICF recogniz e s that a fundamental and irreplaceable component of our financial health (*and spirit*) is our membership. Your annual renewals, mid-year donations, and frequent volunteer hours truly sustain our organization and are much valued and appreciated.

Ivy Creek Foundation Statement of **FINANCIAL POSITION** September 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>$9,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$15,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software and Website Development</td>
<td>3,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>($6,367)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>12,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (Market Value)</td>
<td>514,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$537,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>$830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted Investments</td>
<td>$263,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized Investment Gains</td>
<td>152,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>121,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</td>
<td>$537,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Memory of ...

We are especially grateful for the many gifts in memory of beloved ICF Founders Paul Saunier and Bess Murray who passed away in 2017. Their tireless and dedicated work to create a sustainable Ivy Creek Natural Area will endure.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY  Fiscal Year 2017 (10/1/2016 - 9/30/2017)

Fiscal Year 2017 ended with ICF in good financial condition. Compared to the previous year we had a 24% increase in income and a 29% increase in expenses.

An increased portion of revenues were from Restricted (Special) Gifts and Grants. Targeted for education purposes was grant funding of $7,500 from the BamaWorks Fund of Dave Matthews Band and $10,752 from Prana Fund - Karyn & Bryce Smith, both administered by the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF).

As a result of the increased grant and special gift funding, our expenditures for Education and Building & Grounds reflect a significant increase over last year.

With favorable stock and bond markets, the unrealized gains associated with our endowment fund increased by $38,994.

We are grateful to all of the members, donors, grant-makers, foundations, and organizations who have made this year a financial success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Sources</th>
<th>FY17 INCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$15,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Gifts</td>
<td>25,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation &amp; Corporate Gifts</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>10,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Year Appeal</td>
<td>7,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report Mailing</td>
<td>1,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>18,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation &amp; Corporate Gifts</td>
<td>4,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Gifts</td>
<td>6,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Donations</td>
<td>1,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>$ 97,638</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>FY17 EXPENSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$56,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>12,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Grounds</td>
<td>11,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>12,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>7,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$100,213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We value each and every gift made to Ivy Creek.
We would like to thank those organizations who have provided volunteers, programming, and support on the ground.

Foundations & Grants
Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
Bama Works Fund
ExxonMobil Foundation
GE Foundation
J&E Berkley Foundation
Patricia G. Prentiss Foundation
Prana Fund - Karyn & Bryce Smith
Stillfield Fund I
The Charles Fund
UVA Alumni Association Fund

Organizational Partner Donors
Albemarle Garden Club
Blue Ridge PRISM
Buck Mountain Garden Club
Central VA Beekeepers Association
Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
City of Charlottesville
County of Albemarle
Horological Assn. of VA
Jefferson Chapter-Virginia Native Plant Society
Sierra Club
Virginia Master Naturalists
Rivanna Garden Club
Virginia Native Plant Society
Jefferson Chapter
Virginia Natural Resources
Leadership Institute
Wild Virginia

Local Business & Corporate Donors
Albemarle Dermatology Associates
Brasserie Saison
Ganesh Tea House
Great Outdoor Provision Co.
Panorama Pay-Dirt
Stanley Martin Homes

Program Partners
Albemarle Young Birders
Charlottesville Astronomical Society
Girl Scout Troop 123
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia
The Jefferson School
Mission
Connecting people to our lands, present and past.

Vision
Ivy Creek Foundation inspires awareness of the relationships between people and land through education and active stewardship of our natural and cultural history.

Values
Ivy Creek Foundation values the quality of our lands and the biodiversity of life it nurtures. We seek to provide, to as broad an audience as possible, experiences that increase appreciation of the natural world and that foster a greater understanding of the natural and cultural context of the lands under our care, so that future generations will make wise decisions about land use and natural resources.

Goals
The Ivy Creek Foundation aims to:

- Conserve the natural state of lands under our care and management.
- Use our lands and programs to focus attention on best management practices for natural resources and wildlife.
- Protect native flora and fauna, and promote the appreciation of both.
- Teach the value of natural spaces and natural history to as broad an audience as possible.
- Foster an understanding of how human cultures have worked with and on the land through time.
- Explore the role of history in the context of the land that supports us all as a community.