ICF President’s Message...

Where does the Ivy Creek Foundation go from here? How does ICF remain relevant with the ever-increasing number of deserving charities and other organizations that ask for our time and treasure?

For me, ICF’s key distinction is its connection to place. When I walk the Red, then Orange, then Green trails, the importance of the Natural Area, and the ICF that supports it, becomes ever clearer. Where else in our community can people of all ages, whether a child in the Little Naturalists program, or a middle-aged (or older!) person like myself, come to learn, explore, and recharge our minds and souls? There are certainly other places in our community for each of these pursuits, but ICF provides all of these opportunities in one magnificent setting. Walk the Purple (Field) trail and imagine Hugh Carr preparing to plant his fields each spring, learn about the amphibians that inhabit our waterways and wetlands, find a showy orchis growing along the trail. Nowhere in our community can you enjoy the intersection of natural and cultural heritage as you can at Ivy Creek.

But providing this service (and it is a service) is a demanding endeavor, and it does not happen without careful planning and skillful execution by our staff and volunteers, and the continuing generosity of our donors. For ICF to endure in our community, we need to remain committed to our mission to connect people to our lands, present and past. We have a duty to educate our children about their community’s heritage, and to eliminate the “nature deficit disorder” on the rise in our young people today. My hope is that every schoolchild in our area will visit Ivy Creek at least once before graduating from high school.

To meet these challenges this year and beyond, ICF must continue to innovate in its educational programs, recreational offerings, and community partnerships. While we innovate our programming, we must also find new ways to spread the Ivy Creek word! It is no longer enough to describe our activities in one format; ICF needs a presence in all of them. Can Ivy Creek on Instagram be far away? ICF’s mailing list now stands at about 350 people, and with an improved communication network, I hope we can raise that number threefold. Encourage your friends to become friends of Ivy Creek! Only through growing our network, expanding our partnerships, and augmenting our cadre of dedicated donors can ICF continue to be the lasting community institution that we want it to be.

See you on the trails,

George “Cricket” Barlow
Ivy Creek Foundation President
The **PLAN...**

In 2014, the Ivy Creek Foundation adopted a comprehensive Strategic Plan designed to guide management of Ivy Creek Natural Area. The Strategic Plan establishes goals for each pillar of the Foundation's work: education, buildings and grounds, communications, leadership and financial sustainability. The Annual Report offers us the opportunity to evaluate the progress we have made during the past year in meeting our Strategic Plan goals. As you look through our report you will see our highlighted score card results in relevant sections with checkmarks:

- Green for “completed” 🌿
- Blue for “in progress” 🔵
- Coral for “future” 🌈

*We hope you will be as pleased as we are with our progress thus far.*
COMMUNICATIONS...

ICF is always looking for ways to improve the visitor experience at Ivy Creek Natural Area. In order to meet related goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, Ivy Creek Foundation focused considerable energy throughout the year on identifying ways to improve communications and better connect with the membership as well as visitors.

Three of the initiatives explored this year include:

- **Newsletter**: ICF completed an evaluation and revision of the newsletter to enhance its value as a communication tool in 2015.

- **Website**: ICF also completed the planning stages to guide redesign of the website. With budgeting in place for design and implementation of a new website, we hope to launch the new site in 2016.

- **Entry Improvements**: Another focus of 2015 was the programming of much-needed improvements to the entry, parking, and orientation areas of Ivy Creek Natural Area. Our goal is to better serve visitors by enhancing the aesthetics, educational value, wayfinding, and safety of the arrival experience to Ivy Creek. Planning and design will continue in 2016. The reconditioned park sign along Earlysville Road was provided by the County in support of this initiative.

In May 2015, County Parks & Rec installed a traffic counter along the entry to the Ivy Creek Natural Area to monitor weekly visitation rates. The weekly traffic data collected over six months show that there are substantially more people who enjoy Ivy Creek Natural Area than the number of contributing members would suggest. The average number of cars per week has been 852, and the average daily number is 122.

In 2016, we hope to augment these raw counts with face-to-face interviews with Natural Area visitors to get a clearer sense of our audience and to promote ICF membership to those who are already here on grounds.

**Reflections from Dave Hogg**
Past President

When I joined the Board in 2010 I was quite familiar with the Ivy Creek Natural Area because of my life-long interest in birding, and Ivy Creek is one of the best places in the county for birds. I enlisted in the Buildings and Grounds Committee because I wanted to help with the trails I used so often. However, the more I learned about the Ivy Creek Foundation the more I appreciated what important contributions it was making to the City and County. I also more deeply appreciated the women and men who began it all. They had the foresight to save a remarkable place where adults could go for peace and contemplation, where parents could come for a family outing with their children, and where numerous groups with interest in nature and the environment could find a home for their activities.

The future I see is exciting, promising and challenging. With the significant effort to better understand the role our Riverview Farm played in the vibrant Hydraulic Mills community, we will be more effective in bringing this historical information to visitors. Also, the Foundation will join with the County to assist the Parks and Recreation Department in developing the William W. D. Woods Natural Heritage Area, ensuring that its rich and diverse biology can be preserved while enabling the community to visit and enjoy the property.

I look forward to many years of continued involvement on the Buildings and Grounds committee and my personal enjoyment of the Ivy Creek Natural Area and all it has to offer.
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS...

The attractive and well-kept condition of the buildings and grounds at Ivy Creek Natural Area are the result of many hours of work on the part of ICF Board members and the volunteers who so graciously contribute to the stewardship of the property. In addition to the many tasks that constitute the maintenance regime at Ivy Creek—repairing and clearing trails, managing open fields, caring for native planting displays, and addressing the needs of the barn, education building, granary, privy, and signage—ICF conducts a variety of special projects each year designed to meet education, access, and sustainability goals.

Some of the special projects and initiatives accomplished during 2015 include:

- Installation of a new kiosk message board
- Addition of new plant identification signs
- Repair and conditioning of the barn and granary
- Planting of five chestnut saplings raised by the American Chestnut Foundation

Another special project that ICF oversees at Ivy Creek Natural Area is invasive plant management and control. In 2015, the effort to diminish the impact of aggressive non-native plant species on the ecological health of the natural area was supported both by volunteers and by grant funding secured by ICF. A total of 345 volunteer hours were contributed to this important endeavor by individuals and organizations, including APO of University of Virginia, TeensGive, Miller School, Blue Ridge Young Birders, and Blue Ridge PRISM.

ICF continues to look to the future and anticipates adding the management of the William S.D. Woods Natural Heritage Area to its sphere of responsibility. In the meantime, Trail Steward Peter Clark is overseeing the property, which is not yet open to the public.

“We go back to the early days of Ivy Creek with Bess Murray at the helm in a tiny office in the barn. What a long way Ivy Creek has come! It is unique and because of its uniqueness it becomes more valuable all the time.”

Tom and Marguerite Dierauf

Tom is formerly the director of research for the Virginia Department of Forestry
Children’s Programming

The Field Trips program (formerly School Tours) are primarily for local school groups, although field trips are also offered to K-12 extracurricular programs like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Boys & Girls Clubs. Although the total number of school tours declined over the previous year, the number of visiting students actually increased by 5%. And while Albemarle County schools participation has declined, City school trips continue to expand, especially among afterschool programs. City of Charlottesville trips are back at the levels from two years ago. The area of greatest increase is from afterschool programs.

ICF’s Greatest Successes: The number of participants in The Little Naturalists program (formerly Toddler Time) doubled over the year. Our new, three-day Boys & Girls Club outdoor classroom program, which is a collaborative venture with the Rivanna Master Naturalists, was a great success, bringing another 111 children and 22 adults to Ivy Creek in Summer 2015.

Adult & Family Programming

Overall the total number of programs offered increased by 1% compared to 2014. Despite a modest increase in the number of Adult and Family programs offered this past year and a number of very popular events, total attendance was down very slightly. Attendance at partner program offerings was down more substantially, with a pronounced decrease in the First Saturday Bird Walks. We hope these trends are reversed in the coming year.

ICF’S Greatest Successes: Dragonfly Walk attendance more than doubled this year, requiring ICF to add an additional tour. In February 2015 we introduced our first Black History Month program—“Forgotten Histories,” featuring speakers Lynn Rainville, Lucia Stanton, and Dede Smith. After Tom Dierauf’s study, “The Forests of Ivy Creek” was released, ICF featured two well-attended programs on different aspects of his work. His final report is available on our website for download. In the spring, we offered a hands-on Pollinator Garden workshop that filled up so quickly we decided to offer a second one in Fall 2015.
ICF PARTNERSHIPS...

Local non-profit groups continued to grow this year through the addition of new programs and the popularity of the Education Building for events and meetings conducted by organizations such as the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club, Charlottesville Astronomical Society, and Blue Ridge PRISM. With the help of our partners, several special additions were made to the Ivy Creek Natural Area in 2015. These include a chimney swift tower constructed by the Young Birders Club, and the addition of a teak bench in the Butterfly Garden donated by the Piedmont Garden Club.

We also partnered with the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center in Charlottesville this year to support production of a new interpretive brochure that connects places of historical importance to the Starr Hill and Hydraulic Mills communities. Pick up a copy of the new Union Ridge Heritage Trail brochure at either the Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Building or the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center to learn more.

Partners in Programming

We would like to thank those organizations who have provided volunteers, programming, and support on the ground:

Alpha Phi Omega of UVA
Blue Ridge PRISM
Blue Ridge Young Birders Club
Buck Mountain Garden Club
Central Virginia Beekeepers Ass’n
Central Virginia History Researchers
Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
Charlottesville Astronomical Society
Monticello Bird Club
Piedmont Garden Club
Piedmont Master Gardeners
Rivanna Master Naturalists
Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter
& Piedmont Group
StreamWatch
TeensGIVE
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia
The Jefferson School
Victoria Dye Photography
Virginia Dept. of Forestry
Virginia Native Plant Society, Jefferson Chapter
Wild Virginia
Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute

Partners in Business

We would also like to recognize the contributions of those businesses who have donated time, resources, and expertise to our operations, administration, and infrastructure:

County of Albemarle
City of Charlottesville
Hantzmon Wiebel
Holman Thompson Consulting
Eugene Ryang, Waterstreet Studio
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY...

ICF recognizes 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. This year, we are pleased to report a 10% increase in Foundation membership.

Through the generosity of our members, partner organizations, and other donors, and with careful planning on the part of the ICF Board, we met another of our goals for 2015—a balanced budget.

As we plan for 2016, 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.

Ivy Creek Foundation Statement of
FINANCIAL POSITION  September 30, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds Improvements</td>
<td>$757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>$1,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>($1,180)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments (Market Value)</td>
<td>$436,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$455,031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES & EQUITY                       |        |
| Current Liabilities                        | $1,184 |
| Equity                                     |        |
| Permanently Restricted Investments         | $263,075|
| Unrealized Investment Gains                | $73,252|
| Unrestricted Net Assets                    | $117,520|
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY                 | $453,847|

|        |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Ivy Creek Foundation Statement of FINANCIAL POSITION  | September 30, 2015 |
| ASSETS                                                |        |
| Total Current Assets                                  | $16,744|
| Cash                                                  |        |
| Fixed Assets                                          |        |
| Grounds Improvements                                   | $757   |
| Furniture and Equipment                                | $1,780 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation                          | ($1,180)| $1,357|
| Other Assets                                          |        |
| Investments (Market Value)                            | $436,930|
| TOTAL ASSETS                                          | $455,031|
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY                                  |        |
| Current Liabilities                                   | $1,184 |
| Equity                                                |        |
| Permanently Restricted Investments                    | $263,075|
| Unrealized Investment Gains                           | $73,252|
| Unrestricted Net Assets                                | $117,520|
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY                            | $453,847|
We are pleased to report that we ended FY15 in the black. Compared to the previous year’s numbers, we posted a 30.5% increase in income, and a 4.1% decrease in expenses, leaving us in a financially healthy position at the beginning of FY16.

### FY15 INCOME

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>Individual Memberships</td>
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<td>Organizational Memberships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted (Special) Gifts</td>
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<td>Mid-Year Appeal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goods &amp; Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Donations</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$73,676</strong></td>
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### FY15 EXPENSES

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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Outreach</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>$341</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$71,313</strong></td>
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</table>

The graphs demonstrate the breakdown in last year’s expense and income categories.

Individual donations contributed 75% of our total income, while partner organizations and local companies accounted for 7%. The remaining 18% of ICF’s livelihood was earned through investments, rentals, and registration fees for workshops.

Direct programming for education and land stewardship made up 64% of our outgo, with another 21% of our budget dedicated to improving our ability to carry off those programs (e.g., volunteer recruitment, training, and coordination). Administrative costs accounted for 15% of our overall expenses.

We thank each of you for giving so generously this year.

In the Financial Summary, Fiscal Year 2015 (10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015), we report an increase in income and a decrease in expenses, leaving us in a healthy financial position for FY16.
Membership Donors for Fiscal Year 2015

We value each and every gift made to the Ivy Creek Foundation

Monica Adams
Margie Adamson
Albemarle Garden Club
Martin Albert
Sue A. Albrecht
Kelly Altizer
Ermal Anderson
Phoebe Antimrich
Arthur Vining Davis Foundation
Fletcher Askew
Melba Atkinson
Guy and Susan Babineau
Sharon Baiocco
Thomas Ball
George and Audrey Barlow
Rebecca Barlow
James and Rebecca Barns
Ruth and Paul Barolsky
Gerry Bishop and Pam Bartlett
Jervey P. Bauer
Lisa Beazall
Susan Bender
Tom Breeden and Meredith Bennett
Michael Bevier
Frank and Eleanor Biasiolli
Margaret C. Bidwell
Daniel Biever
Sarah Bingham
Julian and Beverly Bivins
Katha Bollfrass
Frances Boninti
Howell Bowen
Dan and Katherine Bowman
Clive Bradbeer
Gretel Braidwood
Gerald W. Breen
Joan and Chip Brittingham
Kenneth M. Brown
Victoria and Peter Brunjes
David Buchanan
Buck Mountain Garden Club
Nancy Butters
Britony Buxton
Fern and Cleveland Campbell
Alice and Jon Cannon
James and Sarah Cargile
Elizabeth Carp
Gerri Carr
David Carter
Central Virginia Beekeepers Ass’n
Bevin Cetta
Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
Don Charlebois
Drew Chaney and Family
Peter and Carol Clark
Elizabeth Cohan
Crystal and Clayton Coleman
Elizabeth Conant
John Conover
Patricia Cook
Sharlene Cope
Peggy Comett
Teresa and Gary Cornwell
Louise Cortright
David Lee and Liz Courain
The Covenant School
Alycia Crall
Richard and Julia Crompton
Candace and Everett Crosby
Thomas Crowell
John Cruickshank
Donald J. Danilek
Audrey Dannenberg
Nancy Davenport
George Davis
Howard and Sue Davis
Maynard K. Davis
M.J. deVoursney
Michael J. Dean
Martha deJarnette
Judy DeLoche and Gerry Clore
Helena Devereaux
Lavinia deVillier
Mary Louise DeViney
Frances Dickerson
Thomas Dickerson
Norma Diehl
Thomas and Marguerite Dierauf
Emily Ann Donaldson
Ruth Douglas
Elaine Hadden and Douglas Drysdale
Ellen Dudley
Tami Duggan
Ann D. Dunn
Vickie Dye
David Sellers and Bette Dzamba
Robin Eastham
John W. Edelen
Mary Lee Epps
Jane L. Erwine
Howard Evergreen
ExxonMobil Foundation
Camilla S. Fair
Charles and Bette Flickinger
Amy Stewart and Ben Ford
Thomas Jones and Diana Foster
Robert and Kathy Freer
Samuel and Louise Friedlich
Henry and Melinda Frierson
Otto Friesen
Gay Frix
Jennifer Gaden
Pamela Gale
Larry Bouchard and Margaret Galloway
Nancy and Jim Galloway
Virginia and Steve Gardner
Rochelle and Robert Garwood
Helen and Bruce Gatling-Austin
Lois Gebhardt
Virginia Gemino
Hugh Gildea
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Gilges
Grace Giras
Ed and Claire Gisler
Marjie Giuliano
Jane Goldman
Linda Goodling
Wick Hunt and Alice Gore
Alexandra P. Gorman
Paul Groner
Margarete and Dieter Groschel
Leslie and Mark Hadley
Ralph Hall
Wanda Hamlin
Dr. George R. Hanna
R. Clark Hantzmon
Chris Harrison
Hasbrouck Real Estate Corp.
Sheila Hazen
Richard and Jackie Heath
Dorothy-Anne E. Held
Stanley Henderson
Tana Herndon
Joyce Hillstrom
David and Carol Hogg
Donna Frye and Karl Hohenstein
Alberta Hohenstein
Eunice Hoover
Horological Ass’n of Virginia
Alan Hostetler
Dick and Mary Howard
Nathaniel Howell
Mitchell and Wendy Hubbard
Robert R. Humphris Sr.
Martha Irby Hunt
Walter Hussey
Jim and Daisy Hutcherson
Investure, LLC
Vickie Gullet and Michael Iwanik
J&E Berkeley Foundation
Beverly Jacobs
Austin and Jackie Jamison
Joseph Jennings
Arnold and Marianne Jenson
Jennifer Jessup
Erin Johnson
Marlavinia Jones
William and Brenda Jones
William A. Julian
Leah Jung
Penelope Kaiserlian
Matt Kayhoe
Samuel and Deborah Kellams
Arthur and Kate Kessler
Ron and Priscilla Kingston
Jeff and Judy Kirwan
Ken Klotz
Gregg Korbom
Nicholas and Beth Kuhn
Daniel and Nicky Kulund
Jaye Lambert
Charles Langham Jr.
John L. Lanham
Bertrand and Karen Latil
Kaye Lauffenburger
William and Clare Leaning
Thomas Leback
Barbara and Robin Lee
Frances Lee-Vandell
Linda Lester
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Levenson
Karen Lewis
Cheryl Lewis
Karen Litteleht
Pam and Andy Lloyd
Pat and John Lloyd
Andrew and Deborah Lockman
Marsha and Ivan Login
Leonard and Carole Lohman
DeWitt Long
Jeff and Judy Looney
Nora Loukides
Stephanie Lowenaupt
Bruce and Alison MacDonald
Donna Lydon and Kyle Maciolek
“Ivy Creek is our family’s favorite close-to-home nature getaway. I have very fond memories of taking my toddler daughter to “Ida Keek”, to splash in the stream, visit the owl on the education building, or search for mantis egg cases. She is now 6, and a visit still brings her home dirty, wet, and happy!”

Ellen Powell, Conservation Education Coordinator, Va. Dept. of Forestry
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
The 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.

The Barn at Ivy Creek
A familiar icon, the barn’s simple beauty is easy to overlook. Inside the improvements continue. It reopens in April 2016.