Middleburg Eccentric™
MIDDLEBURG'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 6 · WWW.MBECC.COM · SEPTEMBER 25 ~ OCTOBER 23, 2014
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A TALE OF TWO SEASONS PAGE 36

BLUE RIDGE WILDLIFE FURRY TAILS GALA PAGE 32



ZIP ON! EXHILARATING CANOPY TOUR AT SALAMANDER RESORT & SPA PAGE10

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO CATCH A HOUND

CLOSING IN ON CHARTER

NANCY MILBURN KLECK

"You're a closer!" exclaimed Piedmont Huntsman Spencer Allen, referring to the closing pitcher in a ball game. After three and a half agonizing months, he was finally holding Live Oak Charter, the handsome hound we'd been chasing, in the back seat of my Honda. Trying to keep back tears while driving to the veterinary clinic,"Yes Spencer, we won the world series, didn't we!"

The misadventure begins

The Live Oak Hunt staff had arrived a day early to get settled into the kennels at the Virginia Foxhound Show held at Morven Park. It was a beautiful spring day in late May. After stretching for a bit upon arrival, Huntsman Dale Barnett led the pack of 38 veteran and young hounds to their kennels. While sorting out the accommodations, the cacophony of several hundred barking hounds spooked this handsome black and white Crossbred Foxhound puppy and another puppy named Live Oak Perfect, causing them to bolt into the woods.

Every morning before dawn, Dale blew his horn to call them back, to no avail.

With heavy hearts the staff went on with the show, but with the two hounds missing, each winning ribbon was a bittersweet achievement.

Returning home without Charter and Perfect to their Florida-based kennels had to be the longest trip ever made by their owners, Daphne and Marty Wood, and the Live Oak staff.

It was the third year I attended the hound show with the Blue Ridge Hunt. As an equine and sporting artist, I had fallen in love with the foxhound breed. I heard the news of their escape shortly afterwards and called Live Oak's office to see if they could use fliers or banners to get the word out locally.

Within an hour photos and details were emailed and that night fliers were posted on Middleburg's two group Facebook pages and the Middleburg Humane Foundation's page. Banners were placed at Morven Park's main entrance and the Atoka Store, as suggested by Spencer.

Within days, hundreds, if not thousands, knew of the missing hounds.

Calls started to pour in.

Perfect Returns

During our happy drive to the clinic, Spencer described how he believes the pair made their way to Purcellville, but then split up. Perfect, a smaller bitch, made her way back to Morven Park and was caught successfully two to three weeks later thanks to the help of retired Fairfax huntsman Kevin Palmer who left food out and kept an eye on it.

Charter continued his journey south to eventually settle around Zulla Road and Hwy 50 for what would be the entire summer.

What I consider the ember that started the wildfire of my search, was when Joanne Swift called to tell me "Charter's living on Skyland Farm."

"Living? What do you mean?" I asked.

As I listened, I thought, "This hound has set up shop there!"

Immediately I called Daphne Wood. Not wanting to interfere with Spencer's efforts, but knowing so much time had passed and cubbing was around the corner, I asked,

"Could I help by feeding him? I think I have a plan."

In a soft voice, Daphne replied, "Anything you can do would be a great help. These hounds are our children."

Thus began the first day of Hound Catching 101.

Daphne and I discussed options: the first everyone thinks of is tranquilizing.

A dog hit with a projectile syringe and needle will outrun a Maserati if he doesn't get hit by a car and killed in the process. Forget about the fact it's a firearm and the related qualifications of use.

Sedation? Who could follow him in the woods? All good reasons for him to move on and never return.

We decided passive capture without trauma or injury was best – by using the hound's assets: his nose and his stomach.

I Googled "How to find a lost dog."

The very first listing was www.lostdogsinamerica.org and found well organized, well written pages describing all facets of the challenge of finding and trapping feral or semi-feral cats and dogs, or

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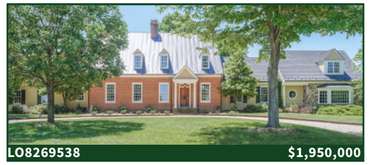
NEWLIN MILL RD, MIDDLEBURG - Professional grade horse farm. 35 pristine & private acres w/ gorgeous views of Blue Ridge Mtns! 2 barns (11 stalls), auto-waterers/run-in sheds in every paddock, 2 riding rings (one lighted). Boxwood gardens, hardwoods, guest quarters above garage, barn appt., and a pool.
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FQ8451130 $2,300,000

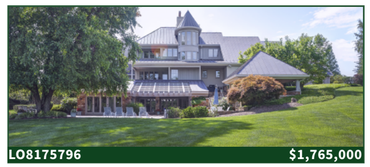
CONDE RD, MARSHALL - Exquisite family compound has it all: lovely 1812 farmhouse, gorgeous pool/pool house, 4 FP, 9'+ ceilings, high-speed internet, unique barn, mtn views, pond, tennis, skeet. Fenced w/ creek. Surrounded by properties in easements, property in VOF. Warrenton Hunt. Mins from I-66, Warrenton, Middleburg, hr to DC area.
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News of Note

Middleburg Film Festival to Honor Colleen Atwood and Marco Beltrami

Celebrations include in-depth conversations and career retrospectives for the Oscar-winning costume designer and Oscar-nominated composer

The Middleburg Film Festival will honor Colleen Atwood and Marco Beltrami as this year's Distinguished Costume Designer and Distinguished Film Composer, respectively.

The Distinguished Costume Designer Award will be presented to Atwood on Friday, October 31. The event will feature an in-depth conversation with Atwood with a retrospective of her most memorable costumes, followed by a Masquerade Ball in her honor.

Beltrami will receive the Distinguished Film Composer Award on Saturday, November 1.The Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra will perform world premieres of concert suites from Marco Beltrami's scores including The Giver, The Homesman and World War Z. In addition, in honor of Halloween, his score for Scream will be performed.

The Middleburg Film Festival, now in its second year, runs from Thursday, October 30 to Sunday, November 2 in Virginia's historic wine country, located one hour from our nation's capital. The Festival attracts filmmakers and filmgoers from all over the world.

"The Middleburg Film Festival is committed to recognizing creative artists who make movies memorable," said Executive Director Susan Koch. "Colleen Atwood is a long-time collaborator with director Tim Burton on his dark and quirky films such as Sweeney Todd; The Demon Barber of Fleet Streeet and Sleepy Hollow."

"Marco Beltrami is known for his horror and thriller scores, including the Scream movies. I can't think of a better way to celebrate the Halloween weekend than with these two fantastic artists."

From Johnny Depp's black leather body suit in Edward Scissorhands to Roxy and Velma's sequined flapper dresses in Chicago, Atwood has designed some of the most iconic costumes during her thirty-year career. Atwood has been involved in developing or has been the lead designer for producing costumes on over 50 films to date. She is best known for her collaborations with director Tim Burton with whom she has worked on ten films and counting. Atwood has won three Academy Awards for Best Costume Design for her work on Alice in Wonderland, Memoirs of a Geisha and Chicago. This year's films include Big Eyes and Into the Woods.

Marco Beltrami composed scores for five films coming out in 2014 alone: Snowpiercer, The Giver, The Homesman, The Drop and November Man.

Filmmakers have come to know Beltrami for his unconventional approach to film music, particularly his humanistic touch for horror and science fiction features. His pursuit of music composition then lead him to Venice for a period of time to study with the Italian master, Luigi Nono, and then finally to Los Angeles to undertake a fellowship with Academy Award-winning composer, Jerry Goldsmith.

Shortly after arriving in Los Angeles, Marco Beltrami landed Wes Craven's Scream, embarking on what would become the widely successful terror franchise. In addition to Craven, Beltrami has collaborated with leading directors including Guillermo del Toro (Hellboy, Mimic), Kimberly Peirce (Carrie), James Mangold (3:10 Toyuma, Wolverine) and Katherine Bigelow (The Hurt Locker). He received two Oscar nominations for Best Original Score for The Hurt Locker and 3:10 to Yuma. He is currently scoring True Story.

About the Festival

The Middleburg Film Festival, founded in 2013 by entrepreneur Sheila C. Johnson, offers four days of films in a spectacular setting. A carefully curated selection of narrative and documentary films will screen in an intimate theatre environment, followed by fascinating Q and A's with world-renowned filmmakers and actors. The films include Oscar contenders, festival favorites, foreign films, regional premieres, and both narratives and documentaries.

Festival attendees will also be able to experience the natural beauty, food, wine, and warm hospitality of Middleburg. More information is available at http://www.middleburgfilm.org/.

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News of Note

Melvin Poe Dead at Ninety-Four



Norman Fine
Courtesy of Foxhunting Life
www.foxhuntinglife.com



Photo by Douglas Lees

The world of American foxhunting lost one of its best-loved and most highly respected personalities with the passing of huntsman Melvin Poe on Saturday September 13, 2014. That's the sad news. The good news is that Melvin was able to ride his horse and hunt his hounds to the very last year of his life.

In foxhunting circles he was referred to simply as Melvin. Everyone knew who you were talking about. He's been a fixture in North American foxhunting for more than sixty years and a celebrated legend for most of that time. He's immortalized in a dramatic oil painting by Wally Nall; he made the cover of UK's "Horse and Hound in 1991;"he starred in Tom Davenport's 1979 foxhunting video documentary, "Thoughts on Foxhunting," narrated by Alexander Mackay-Smith; he was the subject for Peter Winant's wonderful book, "Foxhunting with Melvin Poe," The Derrydale Press, 2002; and in 2011 Melvin was inducted, along with his brother Albert, into the Huntsman's Room at the Museum of Hounds and Hunting in Leesburg, Virginia.

Melvin grew up in the Virginia countryside. He was the boy to whom his friends turned to identify trees, birds, and animal tracks. His father, uncles, and brothers were all enthusiastic hound breeders and hunters. Melvin and his contemporaries represent a vanishing breed of countryman who knew the woodlands intimately and all the creatures therein. And baseball! Melvin and his brothers loved baseball and participated in organized league play into their adult years.

Born in Fauquier County, Virginia—the Old Dominion Hounds hunting country—Melvin lived there, except for a stint in the Army during World War II, throughout his entire life. In the Army he served as a Jeep mechanic and participated in the invasion of Normandy. Upon resuming civilian life, he missed out on a job as an auto mechanic and was hired instead by the Old Dominion Hounds, where he served as professional huntsman from 1948 to 1959 and for the 1961–1962 season. In 1964, he became the professional huntsman for the Orange County Hunt (VA) and continued in that role until 1991.

The Orange County pack of red ring-necked American hounds has long been one of North America's premier packs, and a day in their superb hunting country south of Middleburg was always highly sought after by visiting sportsmen and women on both sides of the Atlantic. Melvin showed the best of sport and the best of humor to the famous, like Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Senator John Warner, to visiting sportsmen and women from all over the world, and to everyday foxhunters like me.

He never scolded the field for turning a fox or foiling a line. "If my hounds can't recover a line that's been spoiled, the fault is mine," he maintained. I certainly remember many great runs when visiting the Orange County, but what stands out most in my mind is how Melvin's hounds adored him.

We've all seen huntsmen hustle their hounds back onto the hound truck after a hunt, the theory being: capture them while they're still here. Not so, Melvin. After hunts at the Orange County, he just allowed hounds to hang out. They weren't about to leave; they were where they wanted to be—with him. The door to the hound truck would remain open while Melvin offered his homemade wine to the foxhunters. Some hounds would climb in; others would lie on the ramp or at his feet outside. They were relaxed and happy, and, if they weren't snoozing, their eyes followed his every move in complete adoration. That wasn't training. No one, not even Melvin, can "train" hounds to do that. That connection is made from somewhere deep inside.

After his retirement from Orange County, Melvin was pretty unhappy. Even his wife, Peggy, declared him to be more like a foxhound than any other creature. The former long-time chairman of the Orange County Hunt, the late George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. had the answer.

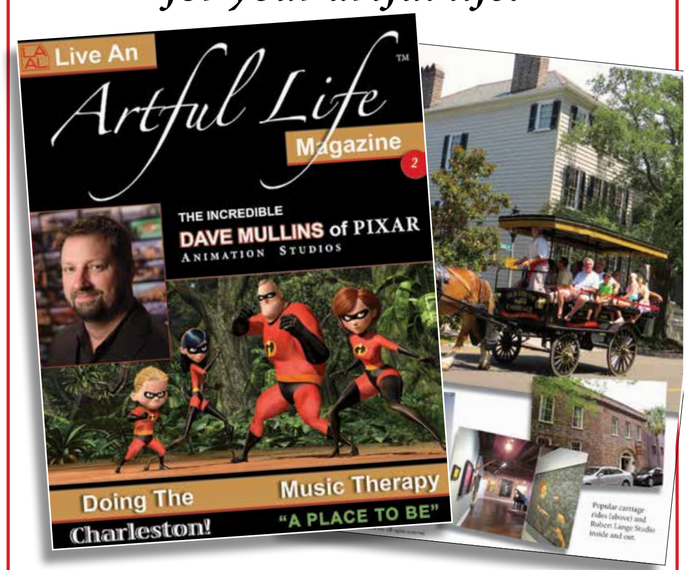
Mr. Ohrstrom owned a farm, Fassifern, deep in the Allegheny Mountains of Virginia, in the town of Warm Springs, Bath County. Mr. Ohrstrom realized that he was in a position to provide a new purpose for Melvin, so in 1992 he established his private pack, the Bath County Hounds.

For more than fifteen years, Melvin, and the Bath County Hounds showed a unique style of sport and hospitality to foxhunting guests in an old-fashioned American way. He always wanted the field close behind him, so they could see the action. I remember a reliable covert on a plateau above an old factory in Bath County where he would hold up his hounds and, like a symphony conductor, position the field in the best place to view the fox away.

Melvin continued to hunt his hounds from his home in Hume, Virginia, accompanied by relatives, neighbors, and friends almost to his very last days. He has given advice and assistance on hounds and hunting whenever requested to hunts all over the country, from Misty Morning Hounds in Florida to the Long Lake Hounds in Minnesota. With Melvin Poe gone, a big empty space is left in America's foxhunting world.

There will be a viewing at the Moser Funeral Home in Warrenton on Tuesday evening, September 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The funeral service will be at the Marriott Ranch in Hume at 11:00 am on Wednesday, September 17. A reception will follow at the Marriott Ranch. The burial will be private, for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Melvin's memory be made to: The Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation in care of the Master of Foxhound Associations (www.mfha.org/hsbf) or to the Museum of Hounds and Hunting of North America, The Huntsmen's Room, Attn: Nancy Bedford, Chairman, 2598 Five Points Road, Marshall, VA 20115.

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News of Note

Middleburg Town Council: A Film Festival Halloween

Dan Morrow

At the September 11 regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council, Susan Koch, the Emmy and Peabody award-winning Executive Director of the Middleburg Film Festival updated Council on plans for this year's festival, scheduled for the weekend of Halloween, Thursday, October 30, through Sunday, November 2.

This year's festival, she noted, would provide the perfect complement to the Town's Halloween festivities.

Three-time Academy Award winner Colleen Atwood will be honored as this year's Distinguished Costume Designer.

During Atwood's 30+ years in Hollywood she has worked on more than 50 films, including "Sleepy Hollow" and "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." She designed Johnny Depp's body suit for "Edward Scissorhands," the sequined flapper dresses worn by the stars of "Chicago," and the costumes for "Alice in Wonderland," "Memoirs of a Geisha," and "Big Eyes," and "Into the Woods."

The festival will feature in-depth conversations with Atwood ,a retrospective of some of her most memorable costumes, and a Halloween-perfect Masquerade Ball to be held in her honor.

The Festival will honor Academy Award nominee Marco Beltrani as its Distinguished Film Composer.

Some of Beltrani's earliest work was done for Wes Craven's iconic Halloween classic, "Scream." Other scores include "Hellboy," "Mimic," "Carrie," "3:10 to Yuma," "Wolverine" and "The Hurt Locker." In 2014 alone he has composed scores for at least five films, including "Snowpiercer," The Giver," "The Homesman," "The Drop," and "November Man."

At this year's festival, Koch reported, the Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra will perform "world premieres of concert suites" from Beltrami's scores including "The Giver," "The Horseman," and "World War Z."

Coca-Cola will be the "Presenting Sponsor" for this year's festival.

Former U.S. Senator Chris-Dodd, elected in the spring of 2011 as head the Motion Picture Association of America may also be attending.

Films will be shown at the Hill School, Salamander Resort, National Sporting Library and Buchanan Hall.

Ticket packages can be purchased on line at http://www.middleburgfilm.org

The official brick and mortar box office will be located in the former Salamander Touch space at 100 West Washington Street, US route 50, Middleburg's main street.

According to Koch ticket prices "would continue to be $15/person and $10/student, excluding the opening night and Saturday night centerpiece films. "

Public Funding for the Festival

Mayor Betsy Davis asked Council to "consider donating $10,000 to the Middleburg Film Festival from the line item for special events in the Town budget," noting that, at present, the line item totaled $25,000.

After discussion of its financial support of "Shakespeare in the Burg" and "Christmas in Middleburg," Councilmember Mark Snyder "advised Council that he would agree to the $10,000 donation if the Council would agree to make a $10,000 donation to Bluemont this fall."

"After continued discussion," Town Council agreed "to make a $10,000 donation to the Film Festival."

Town Bonds

On Thursday, Joe Mason, of Davenport and Associates, reviewed with Council the results of its latest direct bank loan Request For Proposals (RFP, noting that the Town's bond solicitation "was being done on a dual track with the Virginia Resource Authority" just in case the Town, for some unexpected reason, "could not obtain bank funding at rates that were attractive and for a fixed period."

Mason noted he Town received "two proposals that offered fixed rates for twenty to thirty years, which was extraordinary." Middleburg's balance sheets "were being viewed favorably," he noted, "which had not always been the case."

According to Mason, the Town received five offers, of which two, one from Cardinal Bank and one from Middleburg Bank, were most noteworthy.

For a twenty-year term loan, Mason reported, Middleburg Bank's offer "was two basis points lower" than Cardinal Bank. For a twenty-five year loan the rates were the same. For a thirty year option,

Cardinal Bank's rates were lower than Middleburg's.

Town Administrator Martha Semmes and Councilmember Mark Snyder noted that, from their perspectives, "a twenty-five year loan made the most sense."

Councilmember Kevin Hazard suggested "the Council look at a twenty-year loan instead, noting that "the cost was $7,000-8,000 per year."

Town Administrator Semmes observed that neither of the two proposals included penalties for early payment, at which point Mason observed " the ability to repay the loan at any time with no penalty was an advantage of bank financing."

When Mayor Betsy Davis asked whether the Council needed to make a decision immediately, Semmes noted that Council would need to make and decision and adopt an ordinance governing the loan soon.

Mason confirmed the Town had to close by October 3rd on the $1million loan to avoid renegotiation. If Middleburg wished to consider borrowing more than $1 million, he said, he thought the bank would hold the rates until the end of October.

If Council decides to borrow only $1 million, Mason concluded, "they could make that decision during the September 25th meeting," but "if they wanted to borrow more, they would have to hold another public hearing during their second meeting in October."

Police News

Chief of Police A. J. Panebianco reported that his department had what he described as an "awesome National Night Out celebration" and noted that a aerial video of the proceedings taken from a drone camera flown by the Middleburg Eccentric's Jay Hubbard was available on the department's webpage.

Hubbard, he said, would also video tape this year's Christmas in Middleburg celebrations. Police department planning for Christmas in Middleburg was well underway, he said, and reported that the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has already committed to provide support.

The police department is also deeply engaged in discussions with the professional security firm for the Middleburg Film Festival, noting the excellent cooperation between the Salamander organization and the Town.

Panebianco also noted that the department had received a gracious thank you from the Secret Service for its hard work and contribution to the First Lady Michelle Obama's visit to Middleburg.

Lieutenant Mike Prince and the Chief have been actively engaged with the Middleburg Charter School, jointly conducting a class on report writing.

Panebianco has been elected to the Virginia Police Chief Association's Board of Directors. Middleburg, he said, may well be the smallest community ever to have a chief serve on that board.

The Chief also thanked Town Council and all those in and around Middleburg for their extraordinary support and kind words during his recent and ongoing family emergency. "People could not have been kinder," he said.

Dogs, Leashes, and Animal Control

Councilmember Bundles Murdock reported that she had noticed two places in Middleuburg where "dog owners had multiple dogs that were constantly getting out."

For those concerned about the situation, she noted that the appropriate action would be to call Loudoun County Animal Control Office.. She said was concerned, however, " that this was not working."

Chief Panebianco noted that part of the problem may lie in his departement's gentle response to complaints, escapes and recaptures, which he describes as variations on "here's your dog" and "don't let it happen again." Middleburg, he noted, is a very dog friendly community.

He advised council that, in the case of repeat offenders, his officers could attempt to catch escaped dogs and contact Animal Control to ask them to take the dog to the animal shelter. In such cases Loudoun County Animal Control would decide whether or not they wanted to issue a summons to the owner.

Noting that, during his three years in Middleburg he has only picked up two dogs, Chief Panebianco observed that a major problem "was that people did not call when the problem was happening and would tell the department about it days later."

In and effort to educate the town's dog owners, Panebianco said that his officers, henceforth, could talk to owners of errant animals, warn them, and let them know that "next time, Animal Control would be called."

Part-time and Temporary Police Officers

Town Administrator Martha Semmes reminded Council that the increasing size of the crowds at the Middleburg Film Festival, Christmas in Middleburg, and other special events had created a pressing need for extra police officers to control traffic and provide security

"Any new hires," she noted, would have to be added to the Town's payroll, "which involved taxes and insurance costs" estimated at $455 in taxes and $3,600 in insurance for all of the officers.

On a motion by Councilmember Mark Snyder council approved "the addition of one or two part-time police officer employees to the employment rolls for fill in help to work up to a combined total of twelve hours per month during the current fiscal year" and "the hiring of up to thirteen temporary police officers for special events . . . . "

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A LOUDOUN DESTINATION RESTAURANT

A Sportsman en plein air: C.D. Clarke Exhibit at National Sporting Library & Museum



C.D. Clarke Fly Fishing on the Restigouche River, Quebec, Canada photograph © Matt Harris

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) recently opened 'A Sportsman en plein air: C. D. Clarke,' an exhibit that will be on view until December 28, 2014. The traveling exhibition of twenty-one watercolors and oil paintings, curated by Claudia Pfeiffer, the NSLM's George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator of Art, will proceed to Pebble Hill Plantation in Thomasville, Georgia, and be on view there from January 8 to April 30, 2015.

C.D. Clarke has come a long way since graduating from Syracuse University in 1981 with a B.F.A. in Painting and Illustration.

While at college, he studied studio art at the tail end of the abstract expressionism movement. He already looked to the outdoors for subject matter, but influenced by his schooling, Clarke first produced oversized abstracted wildlife paintings.

Even though he spent his last year with more traditional professors, he reminisces in retrospect, "Maybe I would have been better off going to one of the Old Master– type schools versus a contemporary one."

After completing college, Clarke ranged around to earn a living, taking on odd jobs riding on the back of a garbage truck, planting trees, and waiting tables, but most of all he wanted to paint.

"Plein-air watercolor was a way to keep any kind of art going, to go out the back door, and be painting right away," he underlines.

Much like the life he leads, Clarke has his own distinctive, rugged painting style. In his compositions, the artist looks to a balance between draftsmanship and painterly looseness. Color values from light to dark are carefully planned, delicate washes applied, and confident lines, sometimes light, other times bold, are highlighted or underscored. His compositions have a timeless and untouched appeal, capturing the essence of his experience, mirroring the moment for others to recognize.

Clarke is not good with dates, and looking to his paintings to establish a chronology is sometimes difficult.

There is no doubt, however, that his almost thirty-year sporting art career began in 1986 when his submission, a still-life in watercolor of a black duck, aptly titled, The Limit for Now, was selected for publication in Gray's Sporting Journal. Since then, Clarke's work has been chosen for illustration in the noted field sport magazine several times a year, including assignments to accompany sporting writers Terry Wieland and James Babb to paint scenes for their articles.

Clarke's work has also appeared in Fly Rod & Reel, Field & Stream, and Sporting Classics.

Museum Admission: Adults $10, Seniors (65 and older) $8, Youth (13–18) $8, Youth (12 & under) Free. Library admission is always free to the public. Museum admission is free on Wednesdays and the final Sunday of each month. Museum admission is always free to NSLM Members.

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m

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News of Note

AND THEY'RE OFF!



PHOTO BY ADAM COGLIANESE

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Chasing 101: Thoroughbreds are bred for speed, stamina, athleticism and heart (courage). When they don't succeed racing on the flat, they often get a second chance as steeplechasers. The canter and its faster version, the gallop, are essentially leaping gaits with the four hooves touching earth in a distinctive and rhythmic pattern, followed after the final footfall by a moment when all four feet are off the ground. That moment of suspension is what accommodates jumping so brilliantly. You can't force horses to race, period, and anyone who says so is full of manure. These magnificent animals invoke in their owners, trainers, riders and grooms incredible dedication, devotion, and passion.

Demonstrative is back! Owned by Jacqueline Ohrstrom, trained by Richard Valentine, ridden by Robbie Walsh, the now seven-year-old gelding has won two consecutive Grade 1s: the $150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup Hurdle Stakes on Aug. 25 at Saratoga and the $150,000 Lonesome Glory Hurdle Handicap at Belmont on Sept. 18. His return to form began on July 31 at Saratoga when he finished second by a nose in the $100,000 A.P. Smithwick (Gr.1) Memorial Hurdle.

Although Demonstrative was bred in Kentucky at Gainsborough Farm, Valentine bought him in England in July 2010 at Tattersalls Sales. His sire Elusive Quality earned $413,284 in 20 career starts and traces his lineage back to Native Dancer. His dam, Loving Pride, is by Quiet American, a Group-placed winner in France with career earnings of $754,419.

In October 2010, Demonstrative made a splashy debut over hurdles, winning twice in three starts at the Virginia Fall Races at Glenwood Park in Middleburg and the 3-year-old hurdle stakes at Colonial Cup (Camden, SC). The next year, eight starts produced two wins, four seconds and two thirds.

In 2012, Demonstrative seemed to be on a roll with two wins at Saratoga, the Kiser Novice Hurdle Stakes and NY Turf Writers (Gr.1). At Belmont in September, he was scratched from the important Lonesome Glory (Gr.1 $150,000) after Walsh, Demonstrative's regular rider, and Matt McCarron (back-up) sustained injuries in an earlier race. Valentine chose not to run the five-year-old with an unfamiliar rider.

The rest Is history: Pierrot Lunaire won the 2012 Lonesome Glory and, a month later, finished first in the $250,000 Grand National at Far Hills (NJ), the richest race of the fall circuit, which often decides the voting for Eclipse Steeplechase Horse of the Year. Demonstrative (McCarron) ran fourth in the Grand National, and won the Grade 1 season finale, Colonial Cup, against a field of older, seasoned hurdle horses. Demonstrative was runner-up to Eclipse winner, Pierrot Lunaire.

Given a bit of luck, 2013 should have been Demonstrative's year. He started out winning a "pipe opener" flat race in April and, a month later, the Iroquois (Gr. 1, $150,000) in Tennessee. He ran sixth in his only start at Saratoga, then fourth in the Lonesome Glory, and fifth in the Colonial Cup. His loss of form was upsetting. For Valentine and Ohrstrom, racing is about more than the purse money — it's about having a talented horse, understanding his personality and what makes him tick. Every person connected with the horses is important. Demonstrative's jockey Walsh has ridden him in 24 of his 29 career starts as of Sept. 18 (with McCarron doing the honors for the other five).

"When Demonstrative ran at Far Hills last year, Robbie noticed he was making a noise, galloping out, but he didn't hear it during the race, and at Colonial Cup Robbie said he made a noise again with his breathing," said Valentine. "The only way you can tell what's happening is to do the Over Land Scope. He came home after the Colonial Cup and we gave him a strong gallop with the Over Land Scope here at the farm and we found out that Demonstrative had a problem with his soft palate. The vets said that he was partially paralyzed on the left side of his larynx, which compromised his breathing by 60%. It was suggested that we take Demonstrative to Cornell University to Dr. Ducharme. So that's what we did. He went up and had the procedure done in December."

Valentine will be the first to tell you that he's a bit neurotic and worries constantly about "his" horses. After the procedure, Demonstrative missed two months of training, recuperating on stall rest. When he returned to racing in April, he finished out of the frame (top three) on the flat and in the Iroquois Hurdle Stakes, which he had won the year before. Still, Valentine was hopeful.

"After the Iroquois, we continued with a regular work schedule to build on his condition — he's used to doing a lot and he got a little fat from not doing anything," said Valentine. "He's a big horse and it takes a lot to get him fit. He thrives on work, but I didn't want to be hard on him when he started back. We monitored his breathing last winter in Camden. The jury's still out (about the procedure), but everyone says it's the most incredible job they have ever seen. Dr. Ducharme is very, very good. When we got to Saratoga, Demonstrative's works were getting better and better."

As the results show, Demonstrative's early form was not a flash in the pan. So far, competing in the major league of jump racing (National Steeplechase Association), he has made 29 career starts for 11 firsts, 6 seconds, 3 thirds and total earnings of $659,800. Who wouldn't love a job where you work hard, maybe eight days total within the year, and spend the rest of the time living like a real horse, living the good life on the farm?

"I was really nervous at Belmont — Demonstrative was carrying top weight for the Lonesome Glory — you have so much worry because you don't want anything to happen to them," Valentine said. "We do this because we love the game and we love the horses. Most important to me is that they come home safe. Winning is an added bonus. That's how I look at it. It's a frustrating game, but it's also our business and we're training at the farm, living a country life, and the horses are part of our family. I was thrilled with the way Demonstrative ran at Belmont and, yes, I was very thrilled that he won."

Based on this season's earnings, Demonstrative is at the top of the hurdle standings, which, of course, puts him in the running for Eclipse Steeplechase Horse of the Year. The Eclipse Awards are really for flat track racing. There's only the one award for steeplechasing and a number of great hurdle horses out there. Demonstrative is one of them. A lot depends on the outcome of the Grand National at Far Hills, because of the purse.

"I think it's premature talking about the Eclipse Awards, but that's what everyone keeps bringing up. Let's see how the rest of the season goes," said Valentine. "Demonstrative has won two Grade 1s and finished second in a Grade 1 in his last three starts — for us right now, in the steeplechase world, that's a lot. Demonstrative really enjoyed himself in the Lonesome Glory — his ears were up, he loves to jump. He really — you know, if we don't like what we're doing, it's hard to get out of bed in the morning — Demonstrative loves his job. He's a really special horse."

GEORGE MORRIS CONDUCTED HIS ANNUAL CLINIC



PHOTO BY LAUREN R. GIANNINI

George Morris conducted his annual clinic, Sept. 5-7, at Beverly Equestrian, The Plains, when he worked with three groups of riders, sorted by jumping heights, over each of the three days. Shown here, the legendary Morris rides a participant's horse at the start of the final session for the "low" group. His "magic" is the product of horsemanship fundamentals which he teaches in context with skill-building exercises on the flat and over fences. Morris also stresses proper position of the rider's leg and he's a stickler about proper turnout of horse and rider. Beverly Equestrian's Darrin Mollett, who organized the clinic and rode in one session, stated: "I love riding with George, because he demonstrates how correct riding produces the correct response in horses. He doesn't succumb to fad or gimmick but relies on traditional principles that have stood the test of time. " www.beverlyequestrian.com

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News of Note

Zip On! Exhilarating Canopy Tour at Salamander Resort & Spa

Lauren R. Giannini

It's different, all right, and a bit exciting when you're strapped into a harness and suspended from a heavy steel cable 30 to 60 feet (at least) above terra firma so that you can "fly" to the next tree platform. You might start out wondering if you need your head examined, but chances are very good that that you're going to have a blast doing the Tree Top Zip Tour by Empower at Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg — and leave there wanting more…

On the other hand, you might want to reduce the items on your "bucket list" and/or get a grip on your fear of heights. That's what Peter Murphy did in September when he and his wife visited the US to attend his sister's wedding.

"Every time we've been to US, we've spent time in cities, so we wanted to find a hotel or resort outside the city," said Murphy. "My wife spent a lot of time googling, and we came to Salamander Resort for a few days to get over the jet lag, sort ourselves out and get into the mood and in the space before we go to Washington for the wedding. As for the zip line tour — it's that wonderful expression, Bucket List, and I'm a great person for ticking off boxes. I have a fear of heights and I wanted to take it on and address it. It was my 54th birthday in August. My wife asked me what I wanted. I told her two experiences: to walk the Millenium Dome in London, and it was her idea for the zip line. She bought both of those experiences for my birthday."

Salamander Resort launched the Tree Top Tour by Empower on July 4. The new adventure program is under the able and experienced leadership of Joe DeRing, former US Army Captain and Ranger who served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. DeRing is also founder and CEO of Empower Leadership Sports & Adventure Center (Middletown, CT).

"The Zip Line Tree Top Tour at Salamander Resort & Spa has been in the making since 2012," said DeRing. "It took a lot of effort and years between plotting it out, giving it elevations, making sure that the trees are healthy, the roots are healthy, that we have the right wind directions and making sure that all the information is correct. The zip lines have to be strong and at the perfect distance and angle so that they're safe. You're trying to put the ramps in pre-existing trees at exactly the right heights so you're not zipping in too fast or with not enough momentum. You're figuring all that out with the trees, with the trees' health, with the elevation from the ground. Essentially, we put together the most complicated, most difficult puzzle you can imagine."

DeRing's "puzzle" is a piece of eco-techno craftsmanship with built-in fun, and Empower guides are trained for much more than the five zip lines and two sky bridges. They have eco-knowledge about the trees involved in your Canopy Tour. They're also totally into zip lining. They "get" that you might be hesitant and they do everything they can to set guests at ease, both on the ground and on the ramps. The two-hour program accommodates groups up to 12 people. Children must be at least 75 pounds and 8 years old to participate. Guests 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult at registration; 18 and under must have waiver signed by parent. Guests may weigh a maximum of 250 pounds. All guests must have average mobility and strength and be able to walk up the 3-story tower.

"I've been looking forward to the Zip Line Tour ever since we booked our stay, but I was a little bit nervous, a little bit excited," admitted Murphy. "The highlight was definitely Run 4 – that was definitely the fastest. I found myself with no fear of the zip line whatsoever. It was the two sky bridges, for me: although your head's telling you that you're safe, because you're attached in three different places, your heart's telling you you're in danger because there's no visible means of safety. You're walking on a platform that's moving — it's a head over heart thing. I thought it was all brilliant."

It begins with a quick walk through Salamander's main lobby, out the other side and across the Grand Lawn to a bench near the big oak tree where the Canopy Tour Shuttle stops. You meet your Empower guides (two per group). In the 20-acre woodland allocated to the Salamander Tree Top Zip Tour is a three-story tower next to a pavilion where harnesses are laid out so that guests can step into the webbing, shrug it into place and get help with the various straps; ditto, safety helmets. Waivers are signed, the safety orientation begins and each guest has an introductory ride on the Bunny Zip.

"I liked the way Joe and Catherine (Heishman) set us at ease from the very beginning, telling a bit about themselves and the training they went through to be zip line guides," Murphy stated. "It made me feel comfortable that it demands a professional. There was no time when I didn't feel attended to in a safe way. Their methodology was excellent, very structured in the way they offer the service. The zip lines were pitched about right. You went quick enough, but I never felt in danger. I don't know what speed I was doing, but it was enough to be exhilarating. It was great fun, but it was over too soon!"

For information about school and church groups, special rates, and corporate team building activities, please call 540-422-1102. For information about Salamander Resort & Spa and special packages, please visit: 866-938-7370 or visit: www.salamanderresort.com

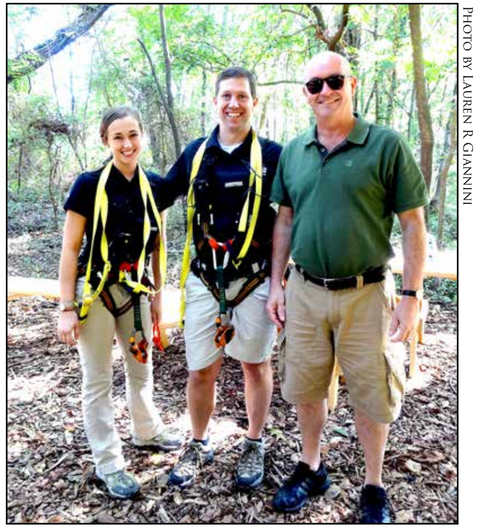
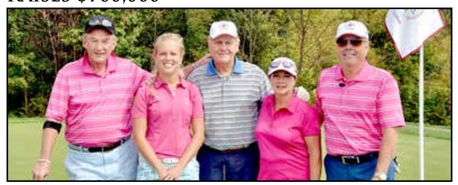


Photo by Lauren R Giannini

Catherine Heishman and Empower president Joe DeRing, both kitted out in their official role as guides for the Tree Top Zip Tour by Empower at Salamander Resort & Spa, pose with guest Peter Murphy before his "bucket list" experience. After successfully addressing his fear of heights, Murphy stated, "It was great fun, but it was over too soon."



Creighton Farms Invitational Raises $700,000



Jack and Barbara Nicklaus, Roger and Debbie Clemens, Peter Bondra, Rod Langway and Bob Dandridge, Joe Theismann and Ricky Ervins were guests at the recent Creighton Farms Invitational Golf Tournament and helped the club raise $700,000, a portion of which will go to Inova.

Thirteen additional foursomes from the NOVA/DC/Maryland area played to win on the beautiful course and to help the not-for-profits that benefit from the tournament proceeds.

John and Diana Jaeger who were Grand Sponsors came in second in the tournament and U.S. Sedan provided transportation for VIP guests and celebrities.

Creighton Farms Happening



September 14th, 2014, Creighton Farms Artist-in Residence Tom Neel, met with golf legend Jack Nicklaus as the two stand beneath Neel's painting "The Golden Bear", one of six paintings that adorn the Nicklaus' new home in the premier community. Jack Nicklaus was on hand to host The Creighton Farms Invitational benefiting the Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation and Inova Children's Hospital, of which Neel's donated artwork also supported the Gala Auction.

Middleburg Eccentric

Oct. 9th Deadline for Oct. 23rd

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News of Note

Closing In On Charter

Continued from page 1



Wayne VanSant

lost companion pets.

There were options. Very sensible advice about what to do, what foods to leave, what kind of trap, where to leave it, when to visit, adding an owner's clothing, or removing scent (did you know Pam cooking spray neutralizes scent?), using a trail camera, getting permission from property owners, gloves, insurance, anticipating the best and worst scenarios. It covered every literal hair on the animal.

Within the day, we had a plan. And renewed hope.

Stranger in A Strange Land

Charter was neither a feral animal nor a companion pet, but a young hound born in a kennel, socialized by a few people, then returned to kennel life. As a young unneutered hound, huntsman Dale Barnett was his main guy. But Charter was now living among strangers in a strange land. Although he'd been exercising with the pack all winter, calling by horn was futile. As Spencer explained, the hounds know their huntsman's horn. Like a mother's voice, they know, and his horn was not the horn Charter knew.

After the first sightings around the Tennis Club, Spencer set the trap, but unfortunately in Charter's first attempt, he was too big and too fast for the spring door to work properly, getting his front legs caught as he retreated.

We had a trap phobic hound on the loose. I looked at coyote traps at Southern States and thought, he couldn't get his front paws in that thing either, and coyotes walk into that? Probably at least 30 inches at his beautiful noggin, this hound needed some "out of the box" strategy. He needed a hound cave.

Daphne told me she'd looked at bear traps, too big and cumbersome.

"What about a hog trap?" I asked.

Bingo. At least a dozen different traps were analyzed for portability, effectiveness, and cost, and we decided a Voorhies "root type door" boar trap was the way to go. It's an 8-feet long, 3-feet high, 4-feet wide steel framed cage with 4-inch wire fencing, and a 3-paneled door hinged from the top and angled inward that swings independently to allow a 400-pound momma sow to enter while her piglets go through a single door.

Once in, there's no escape. For Charter, the doors would work as one, or two, depending upon the mechanics to make it drop. Traps with trip mechanisms ran over $1,000. Too fancy. Surely we could retrofit some sort of mechanism, but who could we find to do this?

The trap was ordered to arrive a week later.

Hound Catching 101

Feeding Charter in one place at the same time every day was another rule of Hound Catching 101, and Roy and Denise Perry of Skyland Farm were all too happy to let me establish a "feeding station" in the field where he was known to be living.

Roy drove me around the property and we came upon him napping in a stand of trees. In the shade, it was quiet, he obviously felt safe. I got out and sat on the ground, slowly calling his name. He woke up, looked at me, and then calmly sauntered off.

Because this site was used by riders in the day and horses were left out at night, we moved the feeding location into an open field nearby to prevent our presence, hound and human, from interfering with the farm's activities or welfare of riders or horses.

A trail camera was an essential tool. It was positioned nearby to take day and night photos. Knowing what was eating the food, and when, was key to the next day's strategy. I bought two cards so there would always be one in the camera while I looked at the images in the other at home on my computer.

Seeing identifiable strange dogs eat Charter's meal one night made me livid, and I had the unhappy task of calling their owner to keep them safe at home. Otherwise, the only other raiders were the foxes nearby and the occasional skunk. It was suggested that only one person leave the food, and handle the cage, buckets and everything the escapee will encounter.

Many people suggested bringing a hot bitch to attract him to the location, but that's easier said than done, and dangerous to the bitch, the scent left by the bitches on the blankets were the next best thing. As Charter was an intact dog hound, we made plans to have a horse blanket slept on by a bitch in season, and Guy Allman of the Blue Ridge Hunt was happy to oblige.

Lastly, no outsiders or visitors to the site. Get the hound use to seeing the "food lady."

Food, the pièce de résistance! Being the scent hound he was, Charter had no trouble finding the food I left from day one. Anything smelly and cooked was suggested: cat food, tripe, BBQ, fried bacon, hot dogs, organ meats, chicken gizzards and hearts, all these foods exude aroma far longer than dry or raw food that have no lingering scent.

Debone the fried chicken from KFC. Start small if he's been on the lam for a while. Since Charter was very thin, I began to slowly increase the volume each day to allow his system to adapt. My friend Cynthia Daily gave me lamb organ meats and ribs, the meats went to Charter and the ribs to the foxes. My car began to take on the aroma of Eau d'Alpo.

He's Been Injured

On the eleventh day, to my horror not a bit of dinner had been touched. I was crestfallen. Where had he gone to miss dinner? That night, the photos showed him with a 6" stick in his mouth, and his jaw was hanging oddly. I was sick. It was August, was he just panting? Soon afterwards, other reports confirmed his jaw was broken.

Time was running out.

I took the day's old food, now soft and mushy, and laid it out on the ground, adding the new stuff on top. To my utter joy, it was all gone the next day! The photos showed he was crouching down and licking the food into the side of his mouth. This hound was a survivor. He'd found a way to eat it. He was drinking water from the bucket, leaving bits of evidence. Early on upon arriving to the area, Charter found the automatic waterers at Skyland and Hickory Hill behind it.

Access to daily water helped him survive.

Tractor Supply in Marshall called to say the trap had arrived, all 165 pounds of it. Wayne Van Sant, a friend of Spencer's, volunteered to pick it up and bring it to his Atoka Forge to figure out how to set the door. I had a simple plan but his was simpler: his gate latch.

In his barn, we tweaked the size of the floor, how it would be attached, trying to think of anything that could go wrong. Wayne was the veritable linchpin to making this scheme work. The scene reminded me of an old MacGyver episode where he escapes his life threatening predicament with the use of granny's hairpins.

The next challenge was to establish comfort and trust of the cage. The trap was pushed back into the stand of trees where Charter had been feeding, secluded and in the shade. The door was completely tied up, making it a "hound cave" into which he could easily walk, turn around and stand to gaze the horizon.

The pot of food was dumped on the ground about six feet away from the entrance that day.

The next day, the food was placed three feet closer… The next day at the front of the cage, and finally, in the middle of the cage on a plywood floor and, and finally, on the last day, way in the back.

The cameras showed he had no fear of the contraption, grazing for hours to eat throughout the night due to his injuries.

The momma fox and her kits came by often around midnight, but I left plenty of dry kibble around their foxhole to keep them happy at home.

Every day I emailed images and a report to Daphne of what I ascertained from the photos. They helped her stay realistic yet hopeful. I posted on Facebook that we were days away from setting the trap. Emphatically, in screaming CAPS, I asked everyone to let Charter come and go as usual, to leave him alone.

Charter or bust

The day to set the trap arrived. Leary of doing anything to spook Charter, Wayne hopped into my Honda and we drove to the trap around 3 p.m., two hours before his usual dinnertime at 5. There he was, lying in the grass, waiting for me! He casually sauntered off around the corner and as the photographs were to show that night, watched me crawl into the trap to empty the kettle of still steaming hot chopped up livers and kidneys onto the trap floor as Wayne set the latch.

"What about the blankets?" I asked Wayne. The girls will have to wait another day we agreed. Like two secret agents we were gone.

"What's he doing?" I whispered. Wayne offered me the binoculars but I was too nervous to look.

Pam Dickson of Fursman Kennels, adjacent to Skyland Farm, would see Charter quite often, and happily let us watch Charter from her driveway. Within minutes, Charter walked nonchalantly into the cage, ate a little, walked out to gaze upon the horizon, then back in to eat.

Even from the distance I could see his black and white markings move. Then I couldn't. He had disappeared. Seconds went by, then ka-plunk! Wayne exclaimed, "He's in!"

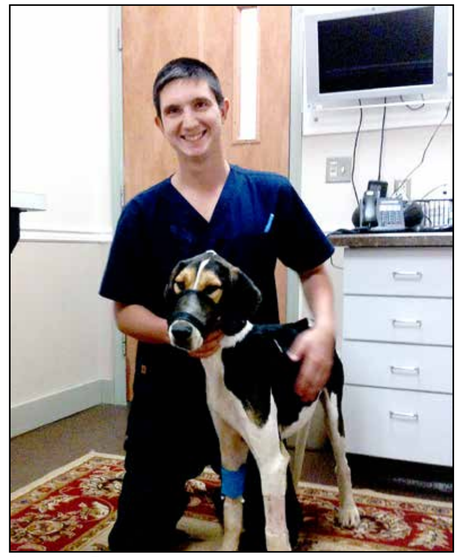
Happy Hound is Found

After 30 days, I was finally able to look into the soulful eyes of this ghost hound. Standing so quietly, watching me watch him, he looked up at me when I spoke his name. Spencer came minutes later and walked right up to scratch Charter on the noggin.

Lifting a single panel, Charter quietly walked out and Spencer carried him into the backseat of the car, resting comfortably on his lap, and off we went.

You could tell this hound was happy to be found.

As of this writing, it is believed Charter was accidentally kicked by a horse since he was living among them and considered them friendly territory.



Charter and Tyler

The veterinary staff says he's a very good patient, and very clever.

He quickly figured out how to push up the gate latch of his cage, so now, he is now under lock and key.

We are hopeful for a full recovery and that he will be returned to the pack, or if not, life as a couch potato.

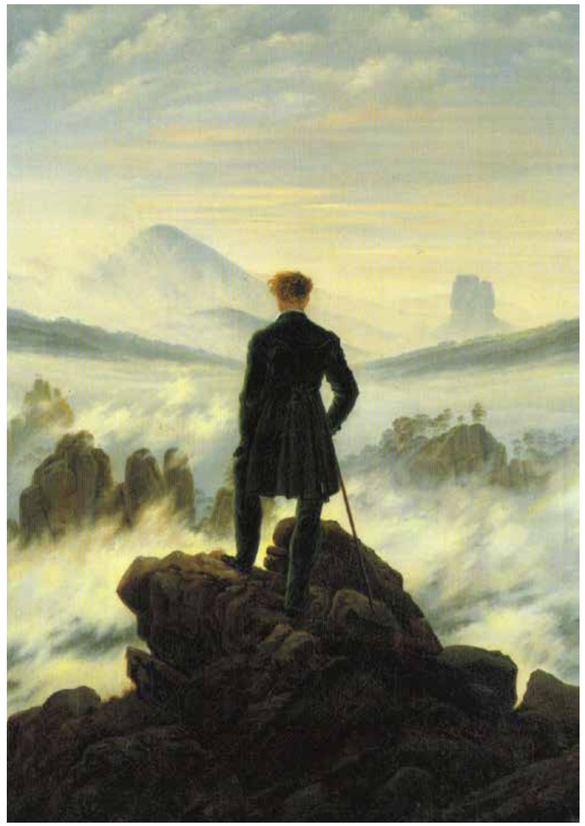
On behalf of Daphne and Marty Wood, Huntsman Dale Barnett, and Live Oak Hounds, Perfect and most of all, Charter, thank you all!





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News of Note

Choosing the Whole-House Generator That's Right for You



Mike Appleton

More frequent, longer-lasting power outages are the result of an increase in severe storms and an aging power grid. Whole-house backup or standby generators provide homeowners with a way to keep their homes comfortable and safe during prolonged power outages. The entire process is fully automatic and takes approximately ten seconds for the generator to turn on after the power goes out.

If you have lived through an extended power outage you understand how bleak and challenging it can be. Food spoils, mold grows, and basements that are prone to flooding take on water as sump pumps don't operate. During the winter a prolonged power outage causes bitter cold indoor temperatures, frozen pipes, and more. Whole-house standby generators can be a lifesaver for babies and the elderly.

Why a Whole-House Generator?

Whole-house backup generators enable you and your family to enjoy everyday essentials like heating, air conditioning, water (if you're on a well), refrigeration, lighting, and electronics. Today whole-house generators are:

- Quieter
- More reliable
- Start automatically when the power goes out and turn off when power is restored

Offer higher power levels than portable generators

While the initial cost of a whole-house generator is more than a portable generator, it increases the value of your home and is very convenient. You don't even have to be home for your whole-house generator to switch on and off automatically as required by the power outage.

Fuels

Most residential whole-house generators run on natural gas or propane. If natural gas is available, it is important to confirm that the pressure is compatible with your generator's requirements. If your generator requires more pressure, your utility company can install a larger gas meter for your home. If propane will be the fuel source, an underground tank can keep your propane supply out of sight.

Next Steps

Determine the size you need. The first step is to decide which appliances, lighting, and electronics you want to maintain during a power outage. This will enable your generator installer to calculate the total power requirements of the circuits associated with the desired components you want to continue to run and recommend a generator that can maintain the proper wattage and meet your specific needs. Remember that larger appliances, such as refrigerators, have higher start-up wattage than running wattage. This needs to be factored into the total amount of power needed. If you live in a larger-than-average home or want to maintain high-powered electrical appliances, you will need a larger generator.

Determine the amperage size of your main electrical panel. Your generator installer can determine this for you.

Decide on a location. It is best to install your whole-house generator where there is easy access to your electric and fuel supply and also where you will minimize the risk of any exhaust fumes entering your home. Factor in noise for you and your neighbors when selecting your location. Generators are quieter than they used to be but they still create some noise.

Select the automatic transfer switch (ATS) style that suits your needs. There are two options available when choosing an ATS—a whole-house ATS or partial-house ATS. In addition, a load control module (LCM), which is a load management device, is available. An LCM lets you prioritize what you power during an outage. Although your entire house is connected to generator power—the LCM cycles some circuits on and off to prevent overloading. It helps your generator balance high electrical loads.

Determine if you need a sensitive new-age generator. Generator power is not utility grade power. Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) is important if your whole-house generator will power electronic items like plasma TVs, computers, and HVAC systems with intricate controls. These items can be negatively affected by high THD levels. If your generator will power sensitive electronic devices, it is best to choose one with a THD of five or six percent or less.

Choose the "exercise" time for your generator. Whole-house generators need to run for a short period of time on a regular schedule. This routine "exercise" mode ensures your generator will provide immediate power during an outage. To reduce the effect this has on the peace and quiet of your home, you can select the time of day that your generator will perform this "exercise" function.

Smart Features Available

Today's smart home can add the generator to the list of Internet-ready devices. Kohler's new whole-house generator models have Ethernet ports to bring your generator online. Used in conjunction with Kohler's OnCue Home Generator Management System software, an email or text message is sent to the homeowner when the generator comes on. When you are on vacation, you can access your generator online to run diagnostics and ensure that your generator is prepared for a storm or outage that is forecast.



A licensed generator installation expert is your best resource to assess your specific needs and help you choose the whole-house standby generator that meets your needs and budget. Appleton Campbell is available to answer any questions you may have.

Mike Appleton is President of Appleton Campbell, a local, family owned heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical services business. Appleton Campbell is an authorized Kohler dealer and has extensive experience installing and servicing whole-house standby generators. Appleton Campbell has been providing customers throughout the Greater Piedmont Region and Northern Virginia with honesty, integrity, and experience since 1976. Contact Appleton Campbell at 540.347.0765 or at appletoncampbell.com.

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Canaan

Upperville, Virginia • $5,925,000

118 acres • Main house is stone with slate & copper roof recently expanded to approximately 7,000 square feet • Amazing views • 2 bedroom guest house • 3 bedroom tenant house • 4 stall stable • Heated pool • 4-car garage & 2 ponds

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Langhorne Farm

Upperville, Virginia • $5,320,000

266 acres in Piedmont Hunt • Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge, Bull Run and Cobbler mountains which surround the whole property • Improvements include 4 farmhouses, an iconic red dairy barn and many agricultural buildings • Ponds and traditional stone walls • This working farm is protected by a Virginia Outdoors Foundation conservation easement which allows 2 parcels

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588 **Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905**



Oakfield

Upperville, Virginia • $4,900,000

Stone manor house in spectacular setting • 86.81 acres • Highly protected area in prime Piedmont Hunt • Gourmet kitchen • Wonderful detail throughout • 5 BR • 5 BA • 3 half BA • 3 fireplaces, classic pine paneled library • Tenant house • Stable • Riding ring • Heated saltwater pool • Pergola • Full house generator

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Faraway Farm

Middleburg Area • $3,350,000

Solid stone home with copper roof on 70 acres • Original portions dating from the 1700's • First floor bedroom & 3 additional suites • Original floors • 8 fireplaces • Formal living room • Gourmet kitchen • 2 ponds • Mountain views • Stone walls • Mature gardens • Pool • Primitive log cabin • Piedmont Hunt

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Marley Grange

Millwood, Virginia • $2,450,000

Understated elegance • Finely appointed 5600+ sq. ft. home built in 1997 on 75 acres in a private and secluded setting • 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 half baths • 10 stall barn • 224 ft. x 128 ft. blue stone ring • Excellent horse facility and ride-out

Tom Cammack (540) 247-5408



Carrington Road

Delaplane, Virginia • $1,300,000

100 acre parcel • Spectacular building site • Mostly open farmland with some mature forest • Great views of the protected Cobbler Valley • Creek and stream run though the property with large pond site • 4 BR perc certification

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588 **Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650**



October Hill

Purcellville, Virginia • $1,295,000

4 bedroom • 2 1/2 baths • 3 fireplaces • 2 car garage • Main house totally renovated, new kitchen, granite counter tops • Hardwood floors on main level • New carpeting & freshly painted • 55.24 rolling acres • Phenomenal European style stable with 6 stalls, tack, office & apartment • Owner is a licensed broker in Virginia

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Blue Ridge Springs

Bluemont, Virginia • $1,275,000

Pristine condition • Idyllic setting • Pond • 27 acres • 5BR, 4 BA, 2 HB, 2 FP • 6000+ sq ft • Newly built custom timber frame barn with state of the art dog kennel (6 runs) • 100 yard underground shooting range w/video monitors from LL • Security gates • Video security system • Whole house generator • Extensive decks and landscaping • Low Clarke County taxes • 1 mile to Loudoun County

Tom Cammack (540) 247-5408



Stonewood

Middleburg, Virginia • $970,000

Charming stucco, log and frame home • 10 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright and sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room with 2 paddocks • 2 recorded lots

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Washington Street

Middleburg, Virginia • $895,000

Classic Virginia colonial • Circa 1926 • Stone and frame construction • 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths • Hardwood floors • High ceilings • Screened side porch on .65 acre in town • 2-car garage with apartment • Beautiful gardens and rear terrace

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



The Corner Garden Building

Middleburg, Virginia • $650,000

Classic old Middleburg fixture • Zoned C-2 which allows retail, restaurant or personal services • Lovely large front porch and old stone walls - nice visibility one block south of the main street • Extensive plantings, room for expansion and full of charm • Approximately 2,300 sf building on .11 acre lot • Front portion dates from 1870's

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Hunt Court

Middleburg, Virginia • $390,500

Beautiful brick end unit townhouse • 4 bright levels • Hardwood floors • Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite, center island • Recessed lighting throughout • Finished lower level with bedroom and full bath • Gas fireplace • Master suite with luxury bath, dual sinks & shower • Great in town living, close to shops, galleries & wineries • For rent $2,500 per month

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What's In Your Tank?

FAQs ABOUT PROPANE

Dale Schulz



What is happening with the market price of propane?

Our current price is $2.399/gallon. Unlike other companies that have multiple prices depending on who you are, we have a single, low price. Many of our members were previously paying up to $5.00/gallon with other propane companies before switching to Hunt Country Propane. Not only is the price of propane up this Winter, but natural gas prices are up 32% from this time last year.

Do you have delivery charges?

We are the only propane company in the local area that does not have delivery charges which can be $20.00/delivery. We have no delivery, no hazmat charges, etc.

When should I get filled up?

If your gauge is reading less than 50% you are ready for a fill up. You want to be topped off your tank going into the Fall/Winter. If we have a blizzard you may not be able to get propane for several weeks and propane could be in very short supply, as it is currently.

My current propane company says they own my tank. I am not sure they do. How do I find out for sure?

Call the company that has been providing your propane recently and ask them to kindly provide you with documentation that they own your tank. We have found numerous instances of recent where the propane company said they owned the tank only to find they didn't in fact own the tank.

If I don't own my tank can you fill my tank up?

Unfortunately, we cannot fill you up. Approximately, 50% of the homeowners in Loudoun, Prince William, Clarke and Fauquier Counties do not own their own tanks. These homeowners pay significantly more than homeowners that own their own tank. In over 25-years of building custom homes in the area we never installed a propane tank that the homeowner did not own.

How did it happen that I don't own my own tank?

Answer: When your home was being constructed your builder, often a production builder, struck a deal with a propane company that they would provide the buried propane tank without charge in return for their owning the tank when the home was completed. It was a good deal for the builder as they got a tank for free and a good deal for the propane company as they had a captive customer. You were the only one with the bad deal. We have found instances where homeowner who don't own their tank are paying $2.00/gallon more than homeowners who own their own tank.

How long will it take for me to payback the cost of purchasing my tank?

Often less than 1-years, after which time you will be saving every fill up. Buy your tank.

Is propane cleaner burning than fuel oil?

Yes. Propane is produces approximately 50% less harmful emissions than oil. Many people are surprised to learn that home heating oil is the same product as diesel fuel. The diesel fuel you purchase at a service station includes on-road taxes which home heating oil does not. In 25-years of building custom homes we only installed a single oil burning furnace. Most of our clients insisted on clean-burning propane. The majority of new custom homes built in the area have gas (propane) furnaces.

What has been your experience with electric heat pumps.

In my years of building custom homes, I've never seen anyone who actually liked a heat pump. They blow out cool air and run continuously. We recommend hi-efficiency gas (propane) HVAC systems in our customs homes. It sometimes makes sense to install a heat pump above a garage or barn, be even in these situations you'd rather have gas heat.

If I want to make the switch to Hunt Country Propane how hard is it to do?

It couldn't be easier. It only takes a 5-minute call. We can typically deliver the next day or two.

Where does propane come from?

All propane used in this area is produced in North America and is delivered via rail and pipelines. It is by-product of drilling for oil and natural gas (methane).

About the Author: Dale Schulz is the President of Hunt Country Propane, www.huntcountrypropane.com., located in Middleburg and Berryville. Hunt Country Propane is a local, lower priced area propane supplier. You can contact them at 540.687.3608 or dale@HuntCountryPropane.com





A PLACE TO BE

The Same Sky Project

25 Students with diverse backgrounds & challenges tour schools and community venues performing two original, uplifting pieces.

Behind The Label



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130 South Madison Street

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Tickets $10 at the door.

For More Information,

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A Place To Be is made possible in part by grants from: The VA Commission for the Arts/NEA and The Ohrstrom Foundation.
APTB is a 501 (c)3 non profit organization

Virginia Commission for the Arts

Art Works.

News of Note

"Unusual Gift" to Windy Hill

Kim Hart, Executive Director of the Windy Hill Foundation, announced in September that Windy Hill had been named in proffers offered to Fauquier County by Walter A. Hitchcock, Jr. in regard to his Rezoning Application for the Millfield subdivision Phases IV, V, and VI in Warrenton.

"I am pleased to report receiving news of a very unusual gift to Windy Hill," Hart wrote to the Windy Hill Board.

"Last month, without any previous notice, I received a letter from the Fauquier County Chief of Planning, Holly Meade, informing me that Windy Hill had been named in the proffers . . ." Mr. Hitchcock, Hart noted, had asked Fauquier County "to remove the affordable housing proffers in his previous application" for rezoning and instead, proposed to make cash payments equally to: Fauquier Housing Corporation; Windy Hill Foundation; Fauquier Family Shelter; and Community Touch (a transitional housing program)."

The Fauquier Board of Supervisors approved his request.

Thus, Hart noted, "in regard to Hitchcock's 16-unit single family detached housing subdivision at Millfield, Windy Hill will receive $12,500 when Mr. Hitchcock receives his 3rd Occupancy Permit. We receive another $12,500 when he receives his 6th Occupancy Permit and a final $12,500 when he receives his 8th Occupancy Permit.

Mr. Hitchcock told Hart that he believed in workforce housing, liked the Windy Hill project in The Plains and as a result, included the foundation in his proffer.

Asked if there was a lesson in all this, Hart replied: "try to do your best, because you never know who is watching!"

Middleburg Eccentric
Oct. 9th Deadline for Oct. 23rd Issue
540.687.3200
Media Kit and Full Online Version @ www.mbecc.com

AiM to Position Middelburg and Piedmont as Major Arts Destination

Artists in Middleburg (AiM), founded originally by Peter Wood, is now directed by Sandy Danielson who intends to lead the local group of artists, enthusiasts and supporters toward an exciting future for the area.

The group's first gallery exhibition, 'Chaos Revisited,' will open October 1st at 102 Washington Street (formerly Betsey's) and will run through October 31st. The AiM website, www.artistsinmiddleburg.org, will also host virtual exhibitions with monthly themes.

Founded as a casual group of artists by Wood who passed the baton to Danielson when he left the group as manager to head MAP, the Middleburg Art Project, AiM's executive committee intends to take the concept to a higher level of national awareness.

"Our mission is to develop, organize and strengthen the local visual and performing arts community in Middleburg and surrounding Piedmont," explained Danielson. "We hope to develop the area into an arts community destination to increase the vitality and economic base of the area and all involved."

"Working with other organizations that share a common vision will create a unified strength needed to reach the common goal. Plans are for the operations to be headquartered in Middleburg and the outreach would include neighboring individuals and organizations for participation and collaboration," Danielson continued.

AiM is searching for additional short term/temporary space after the October exhibit closes to be used as a central location for exhibits and programs until a permanent site is found.

Space obtained, both short term/temporary and long term/permanent would be "home" for AiM operations (meetings, classes, workshops, exhibitions, social gatherings) and be open to all, including the school children. These spaces will offer programs and projects for students, artists and enthusiasts to learn, create, exhibit and share. Education is a key component.

An ideal short term/temporary facility will accommodate a diverse range of programming and activities such as: an interactive discussion "What is art?" moderated by a respected teacher/professor or artist in the area; an introductory drawing course; a weekly brown bag lunch program where attendees would meet a local artist who would present their work and discuss what they do; demonstration of brush stroke techniques; a session on using "Smart Phone" cameras and a themed exhibition of children's work created in this space.

A long term/permanent facility would incorporate exhibition and classroom space, and possibly art studios. The programming here may include offerings such as those mentioned above, but the schedule would be more extensive and in-depth, and would include: art courses and classes, workshops, juried exhibitions and social events. This would be a community arts and education center.

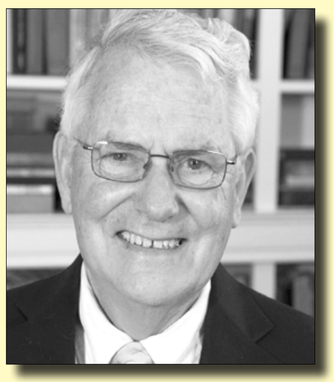
Long-term goals could include the development of a consortium of artists/galleries in the Piedmont area.

AiM invites others who would like to help make this kind of difference in our community to join the organization. If you have professional expertise that you are willing to volunteer in law, finance, fundraising or marketing, please contact:

Sandy Danielson sandy@mcgheefoundation.org, 540-687-3743

Artists in Middleburg, P.O. Box 426Middleburg, VA 20118 www.artistsinmiddleburg.org

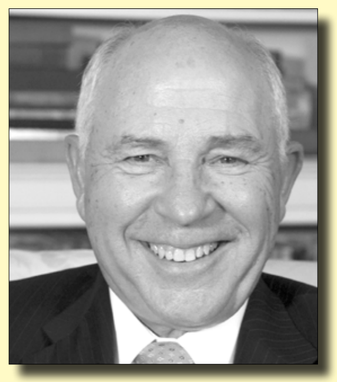
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News of Note

Welcome Foxcroft's New Head of School



When Cathy McGehee, Foxcroft School's new head of school says she feels her life has been connected to the exceptional school and its former headmistress, Mary Louise Leipheimer, for a very long time, one can immediately tell how well Foxcroft's mission and history and her goals and beliefs run on parallel philosophical tracks.

"I'm so excited to be here," she explains, "… to continue the exceptional, historic work of this wonderful academic institution as it opens its second century."

When Mary Louise Leipheimer announced Cathy's appointment, she made her confidence in the appointment clear. And the Chair of the School's Board of Trustees Reggie Groves concurred when he said:

"What a pleasure and honor it is to announce Cathy as our next head of school. As an individual and as an educator, Cathy holds the qualities and skills that the Board, the Search Committee, and the Foxcroft community feel are essential to successfully lead the School at this critical juncture."

"I am humbled and honored to serve as Foxcroft's Head of School as the School embarks on this exciting chapter in its history," said McGehee. "I look forward to working with the community to create a vision for the second century and to help young women from around the world realize their educational, professional, and vocational goals."

"I have some big shoes to fill as Mary Lou has served as an incredible role model of wisdom and leadership. I will rely on all of you to guide me!"

McGehee is also passionate about the impact Foxcroft girls can have on the world.

"One of my roles will be to inspire our young women to advocate for other girls who have not had the same opportunities," she emphasized. "In that way, we will all make important contributions to the world."

In her remarks to students on the first day of classes at Foxcroft, McGehee issued a challenge:

"I challenge us all to think of the work of learning as an incredible privilege. I ask us to start each day with gratitude in our hearts for the opportunity as women to be anything we want to be and for access to an education to make our dreams a reality."

"As we start the academic year, it's inspiring to think that one girl can take action and effect positive change. Malala Yousfzai, who wrote the book, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*, is a worthy role model for us as she stood up for what she believed in and inspired the world to help girls everywhere have access to an education. Imagine that you, too, can make a difference through your advocacy.

"One of my favorite quotations is from Malala. She said, "Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."

A native Virginian, McGehee has spent the past 18 years at St. Catherine's School in Richmond. Before being named Director of the Upper School in 2006, she served as chair of the School's English Department (K-12) and taught English in the Upper School.

Previously, McGehee taught English in Eden Prairie, Wayzata, and Burnsville, MN, and at Fluvanna County High School in Palmyra, VA. She also has been a frequent presenter at independent school conferences, including the National Coalition of Girls Schools and the Virginia Association of Independent Schools, and has lectured at the University of Richmond.

McGehee holds a Bachelor of Science in English from Vanderbilt University and master's degrees in English and Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the College of William and Mary and the University of Richmond, respectively. McGehee is married to Dr. Read McGehee III, an ophthalmologist, and has two daughters, Eliza, a Vanderbilt graduate currently pursuing a master's at James Madison University, and Jane, a sophomore at Davidson College.

Over 100 years ago, Foxcroft's founder championed a more authentic way for girls to learn. Today, the new head of school hopes to provide an education that is "real and relevant and fun."

Near the dawn of the 20th century, Miss Charlotte embraced several very 21st-century approaches to education that, along with the outstanding college preparatory academics, continue to make Foxcroft's program unique.

"In an era when women were to be seen and not heard, Miss Charlotte helped girls find their voices and enjoy healthy competition through beloved traditions."

"Today's Foxcroft women, students and alumna, are confident and spirited leaders who help shape the world and give back to their communities. It will be my great pleasure to ensure that those traditions continue and thrive."

Unison Heritage Day Fall Festival

The historic village of Unison, one of the oldest settlements in Loudoun County, invites you to its 11th annual Unison Heritage Day on Saturday, Oct. 25, in the restored Unison Store Community Center and the Village Green beside it.

The fall festival will again feature wonderful food and Blue Grass music, a huge silent and live auction of already more than 100 local and regional store and gift items and the annual visit of the Piedmont Hounds, the friendly fox hounds of the nation's oldest hunt, who usually arrive about 2 p.m. to mingle with Heritage Day attendees.

The celebrated Blue Grass band Willow Branch will provide live music. Barbecue and fresh-shucked Virginia oysters and clams on the half shell are featured, with imported wines and beer, and sides and desserts by the Unison United Methodist Church.

The Quaker village of Unison, settled in the 1730s, is in two National Register Historic Districts and at the center of the nation's only historic roads district. Most village houses date to the 1700s and 1800s. Unison is at the north end of Foxcroft Road (Rte. 626), one of Loudoun's oldest and most scenic rural roads, where it intersects with historic Unison Road (Rte. 630). Driving to the village is a drive into Virginia's and Loudoun County's past.

Live and silent auction items include a week's vacation in a luxury apartment in Buenos Aires during Argentina's peak polo season; a chauffeured country drive in a vintage Rolls Royce with a champagne lunch; a canoe trip down the Shenandoah for 8 with picnic lunch; and a fishing trip for 2 with lunch on Virginia's legendary Mossy Creek fly-fishing stream. The silent auction, 1-4:30 p.m., includes gifts of area stores, restaurants, B&BS, catering and music services and art work of well-known area artists. The live auction begins about 3 p.m.

Tickets are $30 ($25 in advance), children under 12 free. Free parking. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Unison Preservation Society and will be used to improve the Unison Store Community Center, Village Green and the Unison-area countryside. Advance tickets must be ordered by Oct. 17; mail checks to the Unison Preservation Society, Box 606, Middleburg, VA, 20118.

For further information, please contact Harry Bigley at harrybigley@aol.com or telephone 540-554-2474.

Salamander Resort & Spa Awarded Prestigious LEED® Green Building Certification



Salamander Resort & Spa has been LEED® Certified, a designation established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

The 168-room luxury resort, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, achieved the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification through a variety of sustainable initiatives, including placing nearly 200 of the property's 340 acres into a conservation easement, planting 2,000 trees and constructing cutting-edge water and wastewater facilities for the Town of Middleburg.

The resort also runs a green housekeeping program and features an innovative on-site Culinary Garden, which provides fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables that are used for menus at two restaurants and for banqueting services.

"Since the inception of the development process, it has been our goal to achieve this certification," said Prem Devadas, president of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, which manages the resort.

"Being acknowledged as a leader in sustainability is as important to us as being recognized for high guest service standards and our luxurious accommodations. It was important for us to blend the resort into the area's natural environment, and also create a true community gathering place for Middleburg residents."

By using less energy and water, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

"Building operations are nearly 40% of the solution to the global climate change challenge," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "While climate change is a global problem, innovative companies like Salamander Hotels & Resorts are addressing it through local solutions."

For more information, please visit www.SalamanderResort.com or telephone 866.938.7370.

PRCS at Middleburg Community Center September 2014

For the toddlers, we have our 1st Preschool and Toddler Time. Our Preschoolers can take part in our Creative Preschool, Ballet, Hello Pony, and Soccer. Our elementary school students are already enjoying themselves at Kids Club, but we also have Sewing, Running Club, Ballet, Photography Club, and First Fridays to sign up for. For the adults, we have a week of health and safety presentations- see below!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Tuesday, 9/16 7:00 PM

FREE (All Ages) Do you have an emergency plan? Preparing yourself or your family for the unexpected emergency is of the utmost importance. Join us to find out what you need to stay safe in an emergency

NUTRITION FOR LYME Wednesday, 9/17 6:00 PM

$10 (All Ages) Learn how nutrition can help you combat Lyme disease. Discover ways to heal yourself through foods, and improve the quality of your life while treating Lyme. Call 540-687-6375 to RSVP.

HOME Safety and Fall Prevention Thursday, 9/18 2:00 PM

FREE (All Ages) Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths and the most common cause of hospital admissions for trauma. However, there are many things that can be done to improve safety in the home. In this afternoon presentation, we will cover what causes falls, what can be done to prevent falls, and what to do if a fall happens; how to check the home for hazards and possible improvements; poison risks in the home; and how to create a fire safety plan.

And Save the Date for the Fall Fox Faire on Saturday, October 25th! We look forward to seeing you around the Center!

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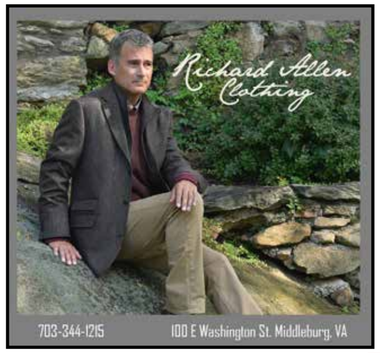
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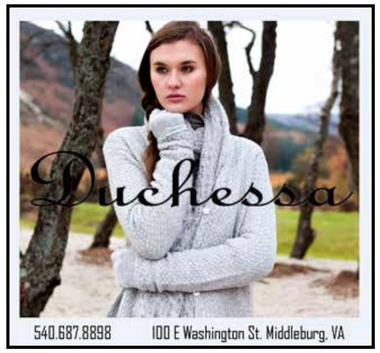
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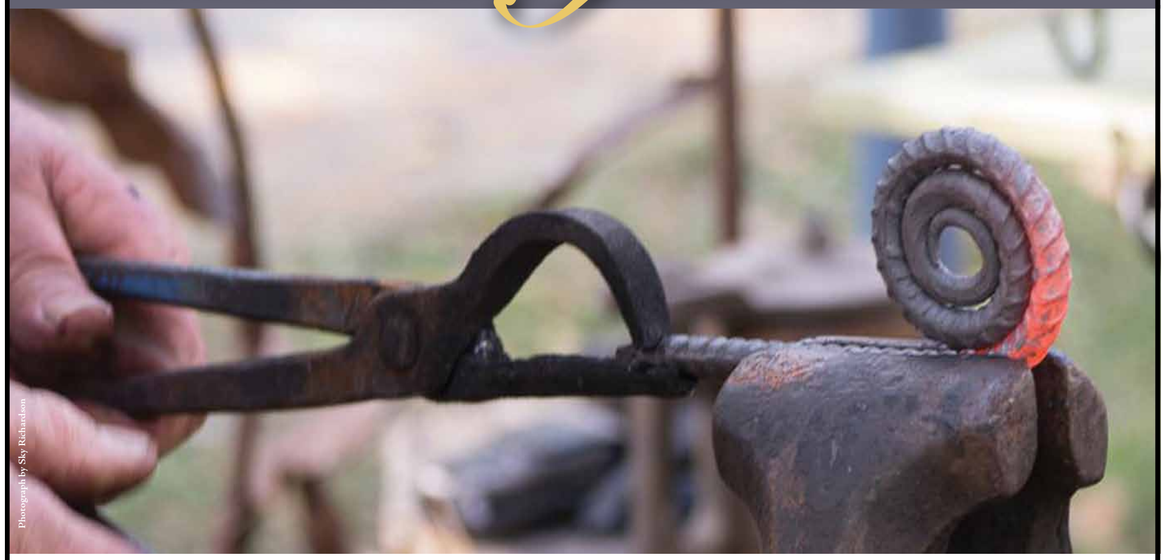
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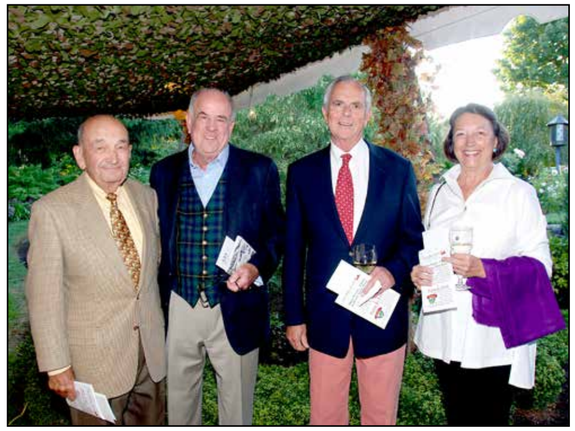
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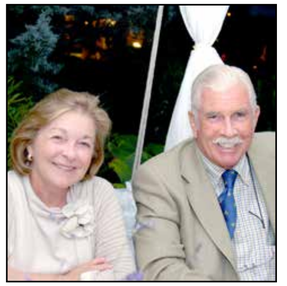
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National Merit Scholar, Distinguished Service Award, Green Eyes Exhibit and Convocation Mark Highland School Activities

Philip Mulford has been named a National Merit Scholarship Corporation semi-finalist and will now compete for one of the organization's Merit Scholarship awards that will be announced next Spring.

Mulford is the fifth NMSC semi-finalist from Highland since 2011.

Highland recently opened the new school year with their traditional Convocation. The event, which gathers PK-Grade 12 students, faculty, staff, Trustees and parents, is meant to look for meaning in a new school year.

"We bring almost everyone together so we can see the school as a whole, not just the portion of it we experience each day," said Head of School Hank Berg. "We are reminded that we are part of a larger community, which is especially relevant when our character theme this year is citizenship."

Chairman of the Board Tim Dunn was also on hand to welcome the community to the New Year.

For the first time in many years, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Jodi Johnson. The award is not presented every year, but only to the most extraordinary people whose contributions to the school are truly exemplary.

Receiving the award this year was Highland parent Jodi Johnson, whose generosity has taken innumerable forms including in her service and consistent leadership.

"I use the word citizenship very deliberately when raising my children – defining what makes a good and respectful citizen in our home, our family, and our community," said Mrs. Johnson. "If the ways I've participated here at Highland over the years have made me a good citizen of the Highland community, then I am so pleased and honored to accept this recognition on behalf on my family – all of whom respect Highland and what it stands for, and any contributions I may have made have been with their full support."

Senior Philip von Feilitzsch addressed the crowd, welcoming everyone to the start of the school year. "Allow me to describe to you this school, as I see it," said Philip. "To me Highland is like a sandbox. It's a place to play, to have fun, to build things, to learn, a place to make mistakes and then be able to smooth them out with a rake and start over.

"There are also a lot of toys in the sandbox, things to help you build whatever you want; those opportunities such as clubs, internships, independent studies, and even community service which allow you to discover yourself; find out what you like and what you don't like.

"Highland is a place that allows you and greatly encourages you to find your passion and pursue it."

Concluding the event was the recessional of seniors with their PK and Kindergarten buddies, a Highland tradition for nearly a decade.

"We believe you are responsible for the quality of the community in which you live, work and learn," Head of School Hank Berg reminded the audience.

"Great communities do not happen by accident, they happen because the citizens give more than they take. People put in time, energy and personal resources to improve the quality of their community. This is one of the most important things you will learn at Highland."

Green Eyes Exhibit

The Gallery at Highland School will host an exhibit to celebrate the art and vision of student Elizabeth Finley Broaddus ('14) who succumbed to a rare form of liver cancer in June.

A Highland student since 4th grade, Finley is remembered for her exuberance, passion, and kindness, in addition to her myriad accomplishments. Among other things, she played varsity tennis, acted in drama productions and pursued a rigorous course of study, including AP Art. As a junior, she won the 5th Congressional District Art Contest with her colored pencil drawing "Church Steeple," based on a church near Vint Hill in Fauquier County.

Finley was accepted early decision to The College of William & Mary in the fall of her senior year and planned to study Environmental Policy. When asked to describe herself in her college essay, she wrote, "within about 10 minutes of meeting me people register two things: 1. I have green eyes, and 2. my greatest ambition is to protect the environment."

Finley realized that ambition, even as she battled incurable cancer, inspiring thousands with her courage and determination. By Earth Day, Finley had raised more than $100,000 for her "Green Leap Forward" fund, established to support local and global efforts that have a positive impact on the environment, moving us forward towards a healthy, sustainable planet. She awarded the first two grants of $5,000 each to the Green Belt Movement in Nairobi, Kenya (where Highland's sister school is located), and the Cacapon Institute in High View, WV.

"My green eyes," wrote Finley, "…remind me of who I am and what I want to accomplish." Looking through her eyes, we hope to help move her vision forward.

A Gallery Reception for the exhibit will be held Sunday, Sept. 28 from 4-6 p.m. in the Gallery at Highland School. Visitors to the exhibit are welcome to purchase copies of selected pieces that the family has had professionally printed. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Finley's "Green Leap Forward" fund. The exhibit will run through the month of October and will be open during school hours.

Olympian at Foxcroft Clinic Excites & Inspires Players

What better way to prepare for your season-opening game than to spend some time with an Olympian? Foxcroft's field hockey players were clearly excited and inspired as Carrie Lingo, a member of the 2008 U.S. Women's Olympic Field Hockey team, visited campus to give a clinic, talk with students, share in Morning Meeting, and help with the Varsity's final practice before opening their fall campaign against Middleburg Academy.

Lingo, who also played on two US World Cup teams and was named USA Field Hockey Female Athlete of the Year in 2009, spent three hours Sunday afternoon working with the varsity and JV field hockey teams. She also brought Jackie Kintzer, one of Team USA's current goaltenders, along to give Foxcroft's netminders some tips and a great workout.

"It was a tremendous afternoon," said Athletic Director Field hockey players were not the only ones who benefited from Lingo's visit. All students and faculty were invited to hear her speak Sunday evening in Engelhard Gym and she also took part in Monday's Morning Meeting. "I'm your resource for anything," she said repeatedly, after covering topics and answering questions on subjects ranging from nutrition and weight training to meeting tennis star Roger Federer in the Olympic Village at the Beijing Games. "Just contact me."

Lingo, who runs Elite Connection LLC with former teammate and five-time USA Field Hockey Player of the Year Kate Barber Kinnear, has impeccable credentials. She won a national championship with the North Carolina Tar Heels in 1997, earned All-America honors in 2001, and was selected as one of the top 50 players in Atlantic Coast Conference history. In 2002, she started her career on the US National Team and went on to play in 190 international games, including the 2008 Olympics, two Pan Am Games, and the 2002 and 2006 US World Cup Teams. Lingo was honored as USA Field Hockey Female Athlete of the Year in 2009 and served as team captain from 2009 until 2011.

Kintzer helped North Carolina win two NCAA titles before joining the U.S. National Team in 2010. She helped Team USA defeat Argentina to win its first Pan American gold medal.

Hill School Alumni Association Holds Annual Golf Tournament



The Hill School in Middleburg will hold its annual golf tournament at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in Front Royal, Virginia on Tuesday, Oct. 7. Organized by the Hill School Alumni Association, there will be a noon shotgun start for the captain's choice event.

Proceeds from the tournament help support the Alumni Association's commitment to community outreach and Hill's need-based financial aid.

Mulligans may be purchased at registration and there will be awards for net and gross scores and prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin, a raffle and a buffet dinner immediately after play has ended. Former Washington Post sports editor and columnist Leonard Shapiro will be the featured speaker at the dinner and the event is open to the public.

The cost is $125 per player, which includes cart, greens fees and the dinner. The entry deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Sponsorships also are still available. Platinum at $1,000 includes four golfers, a banner at check-in, a sign on a tee box and a full page ad in the program. Gold at $500 includes two golfers, a sign at a tee box and a half-page ad. Silver at $250 includes one golfer, a sign at a tee box and a business card ad. A Hole Sponsor gets a sign at the tee box and recognition in the program.

For further information or to register, call Haley Walsh at 540-687-5897 or email at hwalsh@thehillschool.org.

Fox Chase Farm presents for the month of October and first weekend in November

Farm to Table Dinners

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Chef Todd Gray's Menu Oct. 11
(Menu Changes Weekly)

Upon arrival, Gourmet Fruit & Cheese Platter with Artisan Crackers for 1/2 hour from 6:00- 6:30 PM

Salamander's fresh & local Arugula Salad with Sun Dried Tomatoes, Pine Nuts Shaved Regianno Parmesan & Tarragon Sherry Vinaigrette

Local Short Ribs Braised with Raisin Cippollini Jus, Braised Swiss Chard on a bed of Gorgonzola Polenta

Vegetarian Option: All Local Ingredients: Baked Acorn Squash stuffed with Quinoa, Dried Cherries & Toasted Almonds topped with Goat Cheese & Yellow Tomato Marinara

Dessert will be a decadent Chocolate Salted Caramel Tart

Unlimited Alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) as well as Non Alcoholic beverages & bottled flat and sparkling water will be available. Please let us know which option you will be choosing.
Pre-fixe menu
Menu with soft drinks $85.00
Menu with soft drinks & beer and wine $100.00

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THE HILL SCHOOL
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

Pastimes

A Tale of Two Seasons

Vine & Dish



Ellen Kassoff Gray

Ask most cooks what their favorite time of year is in the mid Atlantic and I would venture a guess that most would likely say the fall. Autumn has much to offer; the abundance of late summer fruits and herbs blended with the beginnings of squashes, eggplants and heartier fall crops. Indian summer produce brings the opportunity to blend summer's peaches and corn together with the grapes of autumn – a genuine mash up of the tastes of two seasons.

Naturally, the warm days and cool nights leave you longing for a little of both lighter fare, perhaps for lunch, and substantial food, that fills you up without sending you into a food coma. Just like getting dressed during this transitional time can be a challenge, so too can figuring out how to combine both season's offerings. A panzanella salad will do the trick. Panzanella salad dates back to the 16th century for the Italians – with deep Tuscan roots. The foundation ingredients are onion, tomato, fresh basil and of course crusty bread, even better if it's a day or two old. Additionally, non-traditional ingredients have found their way into this Italian-inspired salad. It is one of those recipes that perform well when paired with the season's best to show off what's at market and fresh from the region.

In this version, early autumn squash is mixed with tomatoes, a duo that is available for only about 30 days out of the year. The basil adds a fragrant



and herbal quality to the salad and ties the whole dish together. For some added creativity for the dish I used a Parisian scoop for the cucumbers so they could match the size of the tomatoes.

I paired Williamsburg Winery's Governor's White, a fresh and fruity semi-dry blend, which complements the freshness of the salad. This refreshing white wine has an impeccable balance of sweetness and acidity to complement the sweet and savory warmth of the early autumn produce. Williamsburg Winery dates back to the colonial era and embodies the essence of American culture with wines that have been cultivated and perfected for centuries.

Early Autumn Panzanella Salad

3 pints cherry tomatoes, cut into halves

1 Cucumber, Parisian scooped

1 Kabocha Squash, peeled, cubed and roasted

1 Red Onion, peeled and sliced paper thin

1 12 inch Baguette, grilled and cubed

1/2 cup Cracked Green Olives, diced

1/4 tsp Red Pepper Flakes

1/2 cup Basil Leaves, cut into chiffonade

Salt and Pepper to taste

1 1/2 cup Sherry Vinegar Dressing (recipe follows)

1 1/2 cup Artisan Feta Cheese

Take a large mixing bowl and combine all ingredients except Feta. Panzanella should be moist, but not saturated with dressing. Adjust seasoning and refrigerate for 1 hour before serving. Remove from fridge, divide between six bowls and garnish with crumbled Feta.

Sherry Vinaigrette

-1/2 cup Sherry Vinegar

-1 tbs Balsamic Vinegar

-1 tbs Whole Grain Mustard

-1 1/2 cup Good Olive Oil

- salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a small container with airtight lid. Shake vigorously until combined. Keep refrigerated.

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Two Large Chinese Red Pottery Figures of Scholars, Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.)


Rare Gilt Bronze Mounted Kingwood Meuble de Milieu by Joseph-Emmanuel Zwiener, Paris, ca. 1880, marked "ZN°


Benedetto Boschetti, Italian Rosso Antico Large Campana Urn on Stand h: 26 ½ in.


Circle of Sir Peter Lely (British, 1618-1680) Pass. Henrietta Anne Stuart (1644-1670) Oil on canvas: 50 x 35 in.

The Artist's Perspective

Tom Neel



Years ago my wife and I worked for a large fine art publisher. Once through the front door of this company, visitors came to a long hallway and had a choice of turning to the left or to the right. To the right, the hall lead you down the business side of the company and to the left, down the creative side. The choices could not have been more different. While the whole place had plenty of art, one side was a bean counter's paradise, with PC's, business like desks and credenzas covered with perfectly aligned family photos. The other side was filled with Macs and desks often covered with assortments of goofy toys, funny signs and such. One side was ties and dresses, the other side, blue jeans and tees.

Clearly, one side felt financial and the other side fun. But I could ask all of us this; Who doesn't need money and who doesn't like fun? Whether you have a creative business or one you might define somewhat differently, without each half, there is no whole. If you are in business, there's a need to recognize the need for creativity (ideas, fresh ways of thinking, innovative products and services) and also have a good sense for business (business and financial practices, along with business and marketing plans to deliver on your intended goals). While they seem to work rather independently of each other in theory, in reality, they are connected at the hip in a necessary tug of war. Each showing its own strengths and each completely capable of falling on its face without the other. The truth is, business survival comes in the cultivating and harvesting of both.

As this is a creative related column, a non creative type might think it would be natural to focus on many artists often being less than business savvy. Though in truth, I meet plenty of very smart business savvy people with companies that could use a creative jolt. It's actually a shame that the two sides don't find ways to help each other more. Unless a business has more or less of a creative focus, like marketing or graphic design, it often thinks the general mass of creative types is incapable of ideas complimentary to their business. Truth is, that's what a creative brain is mainly wired to do - come up with ideas.

In turn, I have met many creative thinkers that carry a live under a rock attitude, whereby the only people they feel comfortable with are other creative types. Some of this unfortunately is not without merit, as there are certainly cases where so called business types intentionally make an effort to cast inferiority. Still, if they mingled more with the business types, they would find a new growth within them and I certainly think visa versa. Companies like Apple and Pixar are perfect examples of what can happen when a creative company thinks in a business like manner, and look what happens to companies like Ford when they get creative.

From my perspective, I'm fortunate to have somewhat equal parts of both, but I can't help but thinking every business or board of directors, should make sure they have or consult with at least one person who is that out of the box thinker. That one person who is always saying, "What if….?". I think of all the really small businesses out there of 2 to 20 people, that don't feel comfortable talking to other small business owners about their specific challenges and so they spiral internally, hunting for ideas of growth or in some cases, survival. I also think of artists, who I know could use a major shot in the arm from someone with business sense, instead of floundering to make ends meet.

For many artists especially, the problem is just understanding and owning up to calling themselves business people. It's no sell out. If you except currency for your ideas and creative expression, guess what? Your in business! But it's funny to note, I have talked to so many business people who paint as a hobby and who have just as hard a time calling themselves an artist. It can be quite comical to speak to a very successful person who paints, writes, is a photographer or maybe works in wood or who are musicians, and getting them to except the title of being an artist is too lofty a notion.

I'm can't help but wonder though, what it would be like if these two types of brains blended more often. Large companies know it's an imperative expense of growth to have internal or external marketing groups and creative consultants. With smaller companies it is often considered unaffordable. It seems collaborative partnerships could help, but at the very least a greater open mindedness of support would be healthy I think.

Live An Artful Life, Tom

Susan and Chloe



"When I first got Chloe, I drove four hours to the Amish Country not knowing where I was going or what I was getting other than from a little picture on the internet. She was the cutest puppy I ever saw and I had a feeling she was just right. When I got there, the farm was just pristine and the people were so sweet and nice and they opened the little hutch cage and she leapt and actually wrapped her paws around my arm like a monkey – her entire body was wrapped completely around my arm. The other puppies were cute, but I knew that she was it. She ran around the courtyard for about five to ten minutes, but it was all decided instantly. I knew she was the one when I saw her picture, but the moment that door opened and she wrapped herself around me I knew for sure she was the one.

The family was so sweet and nice. When I was ready to leave – of course taking off in a car – and the Amish riding around in buggies, they questioned if Chloe was going to live in the house. I said, 'Oh yes, I've even got her pillow ready.' They were amazed. However, since then the lady and I have become friends and she has actually taken a dog of her own and keeps it in the house. We write back and forth to each other about dog training. The family is just delightful.

Chloe has given me so much joy because I had lost my Foxy after 12 years. I never thought I could replace her. Not that she is replaced; she is remembered and well loved. Chloe is so happy and fun and keeps me going – that's for sure. She doesn't seem to slow down too much and she has learned all of her manners and behaves so well and loves growing up in Middleburg where all of the shop keepers give her cookies. She knows her way about town. I am just very lucky to have her. She is the sweetest, happiest, softest little dog I could ever ask for. She certainly keeps me happy."

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Pastimes

Time to Divide Your Peonies

The Plant Lady







Karen Rexrode

The gardener is very busy this time of year, opportunities to enhance the garden abound. Many perennials can be divided, for some it's the only time of year to divide, especially so with herbaceous peonies. Before you cut back the foliage, think about lifting your clumps and dividing them into more plants. This is especially important if you've noticed a reduction in flowers in spring.

I lift the entire clump, clean up the roots and look for eyes or growing tips. You can cut the foliage or leave a little to make it easier to hold onto the roots. With a little stick or poker, clean the dirt off and look for places you can divide the root so that each piece has 3 or so eyes. With peonies, the small feeder roots don't arrive till early winter, so you will find your tuber-like roots perfect for lifting and cleaning, the only time of year you can do this without damaging them. When planting the roots, it's critical that the eyes sit high, no more than an inch or so underground. If planted too deep, the sunlight won't reach the eyes and flowers are not initiated. As you will often find, roots have grown deep and you have fewer flowers.

I plant the new divisions 3 feet apart and amend the soil with organic matter. Account for the mulch with your depth, the growing tips can be at soil level, it's always better to err on the high side than too deep. Another thought is too tie a tag on the roots with the variety name. I prefer flagging tape for this, but anything that will last, like cut-up pieces of plastic containers attached with a wire. Use a pencil or sharpie, or both, to write the name.

Sometimes you want to cut your peonies in spring but hate to hurt the floral show. A few planted in a sunny bed, away from the garden, can provide cutting flowers without the guilt. Just a thought.

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October 19 Talk: VMI Cadets at the Battle of New Market

The Mosby Heritage Area Association will host a talk on October 19th on the VMI Cadets at the Battle of New Market and the Berkeley Family of Aldie. The talk will begin at 2 p.m. at the Aldie Methodist Church, 39325 John Mosby Hwy, Aldie, VA and after, a tour will be offered of the Berkeley House across the street at 39254 John Mosby Hwy, Aldie, VA.

Troy Marshall, Site Director of the Virginia Museum of the Civil War (of Virginia Military Institute) will speak on "Legacy of Valor – VMI in the Civil War." Historian and author, Eric Buckland, will bring to life Edmund Berkeley Jr. who was born in Aldie, wounded with his fellow cadets at the Battle of New Market in 1864, and later was a Mosby Ranger. Local historian Wynne Saffer will discuss the Berkeley family of Aldie and a tour of Berkeley House will follow. Books will be for sale from local authors Dan Morrow, Murder in Lexington and Eric Buckland, Mosby's Keydet Rangers.

Tickets are $25 for MHAA members and $35 for non-members, please call MHAA at 540-687-6681 or use the calendar page at www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

Fall is here... Have no Fear...

Sincerely, Me

Brandy Greenwell

I can't believe it! Fall is already here and I have barely had a chance to wear all my favorite summer sundresses. Of course as seasons change, so do wardrobes and fashion trends. What is on your hot list for this fall?

My number one item this fall is a cape. No, I do not change in phone booths, but I do love a cape and working it into my wardrobe for any occasion. I have several different wool ones, a velvet one, and a tweed one and I can't get enough of them. They are warm, stylish and make a glamorous overture with every fling. This year I want to expand my collection with a heavy cashmere style or perhaps an alpaca version with leather trim. Swoon.

Neutrals are always big for fall with various shades of brown and grey. This year I have expanded my neutrals to include lots of olive tones, snakeskin prints (or other animal prints), feathers and even subtle cammo, yes cammo. Neutrals will take you over many seasons and grow your wardrobe with miles and miles of versatility. I also am playing with metallic tones as neutral accessories. Metallics: they aren't just for cocktail attire or pageants anymore.

I continue to love and praise the inventor of ponte material and applaud its wide acceptance and popularity. Finally, all things knit are also being made of a hearty material called ponte. How wonderful that there is an option for ladies to not expose lumps and bumps and still be on trend and have structure. I particularly like some of the combinations with leather accents. If you haven't tried on the splendor of this super fabric, do so immediately. Your overworked Spanx will thank you and you may be able to finally retire your iron.

I love shoes. They are my kryptonite. But I am not swooning over the fall '14 styles. A ton of thick, heavy ankle straps are being shown that resemble a house arrest anklet. I am not a fan of the extreme, however I do dig a fine strappy pair of heels. Here is where you experiment with metallic shoes with everyday wear. I am easing into the trend of men's oxfords, but only if I can channel Ducky Dale. Keep your boots and shoes classic and you cant go wrong.

Boyfriend jeans: I love them in every wash with premade holes and tearing. I think the juxtaposition of a ripped, slouchy jean with elegant blouse, tweed blazer and cowboy boots is fun, sexy and classic. I have even seen boyfriend jeans pegged this season, yes PEGGED at the bottom and rolled just above the ankle with the aforementioned strappy metallic pumps. I hope I remember how to get the perfect peg a la 1991, but I am not sure if I will actually put it into practice. Been there, done that.



I am a proponent of always creating a wardrobe of basics and classics that can be utilized over many years and season transitions. Not that I don't appreciate fashion forwardness, but building a wardrobe is like an art collection. Investment pieces will retain their value and each piece displays your personal sense of style. Enjoy fall, be stylish.

Knee health and exercise

Kay Colgan,
BS certified finess
professional, certified
health coach

As babies are knees are flexible and grow strong as we learn to walk and maneuver around obstacles. Our muscles become stronger as we learn to run, reach and bend and do all the things that children do. Fast forward to adulthood and we continually put stress on our knees. The problem isn't the stress we put on the knees but rather the imbalances that we create in the surrounding muscles that support the knee.

In the most simplistic terms our knees lose their cushioning (cartilage) because the bones no longer line up like they should. In other words, imbalances have occurred in the muscles which will alter how the bones line up. In a perfect world we would not sit all day and we would balance our activities to create a balance within our muscles. But, for the majority commuting and possibly working behind a desk and at a computer is the reality. Sitting creates short hamstrings and hip flexors. To counter the sitting, one needs to stand and stretch out their hamstrings and hip flexors. Working the quadriceps muscles (front of the thigh) will strengthen the muscles in front and sides of the knee. Simple leg lifts while lying supine, can create a strong and functional quadriceps. Walking is probably one of the best exercises for the knees. Paying particular attention to extension when walking.

Pay attention to your knees. Treat them kindly. Create a balanced workout that does not overtax them, but creates flexibility and strength. Functional muscles are preferred over constricted tight inflexible muscles. A well rounded workout that incorporates all the muscle groups is more effective than always targeting the same muscles. Creating a balance is the goal. Pilates and yoga can create that strong supple body without overtaxing the joints. When we are young we don't think about our joints too much, but as we age the reality of what we have done in the past becomes our future. So stretch, reach, bend and extend for the health of your joints.

For more information about health and fitness, please contact: Kay Colgan, 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia or call 54-687-6995.

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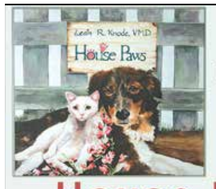
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Albert's Corner
A monthly column for people who share their homes with four-legged friends.



Albert P. Clark

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem." (A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh)

Full disclosure: I talk a lot. And I mean a whole lot. Sometimes my people refer to it as "barking my head off", which is an absurd statement that is clearly not true. And yet, while my head remains in its proper place at all times, I will admit to exuberant speech. I'm quite proud of it, actually. What I can't figure out is why so many people do not seem to care what I'm saying.

For instance, the big brown truck with the boxes shows up many times, especially at the holidays. I tell everyone in my house that there's a scary intruder, but everyone ignores me. Worse, my people saunter over to the door and open it like they have good sense. And all the while, I'm sounding the alarm bell to no avail. It's very frustrating. But the first rule of good people training is consistency, so I'll just keep it up until they finally figure it out.

Somehow, people and dogs live together harmoniously without speaking the same language. Dogs actually tend to learn more about human language than humans do about canine language. I would like to change that with one article, but there's not enough space in this column to go into lots of detail. I can, however, promise you that all dogs speak with purpose. Our barks mean very different things, and if you listen closely, it's easy to understand us.

For instance, repetitive solitary barks with silence between them usually indicate loneliness or boredom. A brief, sharp bark at a low pitch is a warning for our person to stop what he or she is doing because we are annoyed. Whining, high-pitched barks mean we want something. A single, slow bark at a lower pitch can be our way of telling our person to come. Rapid, repetitive barking is an urgent signal gathering the pack and giving a heads up that danger may be on the way.

There are many more variations of the above, but the general idea is that our communication is highly nuanced and dependent on bark duration, frequency, and pitch. We are not just making noise; we are trying to get a point across. In addition to barking, we have a wide range of other vocal tools including yelps, howls, and sighs. Each one is significant.

It seems logical that people should take great interest in our speech since we try hard to understand theirs. According to Dr. Stanley Coren, an expert in canine intelligence, the average dog can understand about 165 words, and more with training. There is even one dog on record who has demonstrated a clear understanding of more than 1,000 words. (And yes, he was a Border Collie. What else?)

Of course, trying to understand our vocal language is just a tiny part of learning how to listen to us. For anyone who wants to find out lots more about how dogs think and communicate, there are some great books on those topics, including: *The Genius of Dogs*, by Brian Hare and Vanessa Woods; *How Dogs Love Us*, by Gregory Berns; *Inside of a Dog* by Alexander Horowitz; and *For the Love of a Dog* by Patricia McConnell.

I'll close with one more quote, just because I like it: *"All his life he tried to be a good person. Many times, however, he failed. For after all, he was only human. He wasn't a dog." (Charles M. Schulz)*

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg, Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, and Woodley Park.

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Editors Desk

From Back-to-School to New Year's Day

For most, if not all businesses, the "back to school" through Christmas season is critical, nearly always determining the difference between a good year and a bad one . . . and sometimes the difference between a good year and the last one.

Middleburg has, for years, benefitted from the demographics of western Loudoun and Northern Fauquier counties, the stability of the private schools nearby, the drawing power of its unique retail and restaurant base, and the simple pleasure of dining and shopping in a beautiful and friendly community in horse country.

In recent years, despite recession, the Town has done well in comparison to many of its neighbors.

Last year, the long awaited opening of the Salamander Inn and Spa provided a hint of just how truly special the back-to-school through-the-holidays season could be.

This year promises to be spectacular.

The Gold Cup races will be followed hard on by Halloween celebrations unparalled, capped off by the second annual, Halloween themed Middleburg Film Festival

The annual Christmas-in-Middleburg parades and celebrations promise to be better, and better managed, than ever.

The town looks great. Its businesses look greater. Its fianances are sound. And enthusiasm appears to be at an all time high.

We look forward to a great last quarter for 2014 for all those who know and love the town . . . and to making new friends to start the year ahead on the best terms ever.

The Art of the Possible

Blue

Daniel Morrow

Those who "can," do. Often because they have no choice and are left with few if any options

Contrary to the aphorism, those who "can't, teach," rarely, if ever, do.

Teaching, after all, tends to be a professional, supportive, constructive, and team-building profession that works best among those with a desire or incentive to learn.

Instead of "teaching" our political friends who "can't" now mostly "complain" . . usually about those who "can" . . . and more often than not about what those who "can" have actually "done."

Hence the never-ending GOP carp-fest about what they would either have us believe is President Obama's foreign policy . . . or, if they've been caught "exaggerating," their complaints about what they would have us believe is his lack of a foreign policy.

The 'bomb-bomb-bomb, bomb-bomb Iran' wing of the Grand Old Plutocracy, for example, still insists that refusal to put American combat units on the ground in Syria yesterday (if not sooner)is the moral equivalent of "appeasement," ca 1936.

The Ayn-Rand and allied special-insight-into-the-mind-of-god wing of the party assumes a posture that my father and grandfather would have recognized as nothing less than the America-first, Charles-Lindberg brand of isolationism, ca 1940.

Both cohorts of critics, of course, latch onto any turn of phrase, any sound bite, or any set-back large or small as "evidence" of their superior minds, their "expertise" or the depth and relevance of their "historical insight"

Such talk, "as they say," is "cheap."

The President, to paraphrase Faulkner, not only has to take responsibility for the orders he issues and the policies he endorses, but bear the burdens of their consequences . . . consequences that affect not only all Americans, but all those whose lives he, and we, and all our friends and allies touch.

Furthermore, the President is not only responsible for the actions he "instigates", but those he allows . . .those, as Faulkner would say, he doesn't say "no" to, even though he knows he should.

Our friends who live by such truisms would do well to remember the world is, indeed, not perfect, and no plan survives the first clash of battle. Politics and foreign policy are, as they say, arts of the possible.

President Obama's foreign policy at this point in the history of Eastern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East has been a prime example of cautious progress in the realm of the possible.

He and his friends and allies do what they can, in the face of intransigent opposition, with the tools at their disposal, in a world of unprecedented complexity and interconnectivity.

Appropriately, this President resists demands that he make the same mistakes he has spent most of his time in office trying to fix.

Even more important, he resists all manner of hair-on-fire propositions that he not only make new mistakes, but let everyone know he will make them well in advance.

The President's critics, all too often, have either no plans, plans with no support at home or abroad, or worse, plans based on special insight into the fantasy world of perfect intelligence, flawless planning, and cavalry charges with allies who would rather die than suffer the indignity of hearing we thought ill of them.

That's not the real world . . . it never has been.

This administration will do whatever it must do to defend our country from those who would incite a war with Russia, have us put unnecessary boots on the ground in the Middle East, and abandon Africa to disease and ethnic cleansing.

We byde our tyme.

But woe be to him who mistakes caution or a willingness to negotiate for lack of resolve . . . or believes that an unwillingness to go to war masks an inability to wage it.

We now draw the sword reluctantly, not because we do not know how to use it, but because we know precisely just how terrible and swift it can be.

STRATEGY? WE DON'T NEED NO STINKING STRATEGY!

Red

James Morgan

OK, what he actually said was "we don't have a strategy yet." He was referring to ISIS (the "JV" team), but he unintentionally described his entire foreign policy. What our esteemed community organizer has conducted is what Peter Wehner, writing in Commentary magazine, called "a Monty Python foreign policy." It simply has not been serious. Besides, it interferes with his golf games.

Barack Obama understands that there is evil in the world. But, like so many "progressives," he thinks it resides not in Islamic jihadist terrorism, Vladimir Putin, or Iran, but in Fox News, the Tea Party, and the Little Sisters of the Poor.

His worldview was formed by his early life and education in Muslim Indonesia. While not a Muslim himself (I suspect he's actually either agnostic or atheist), he clearly identifies with Islamic culture and that affects the way he thinks. Remember he once said that the Islamic call to prayer was one of the most beautiful sounds in the world. Add in his radical leftist upbringing and we get a man who has difficulty standing up for America because he doesn't really believe in America. In his heart, we are the Bad Guys.

And then there is his mind-boggling ineptitude. Obama wants to "degrade and destroy" ISIS while simultaneously making it into "a manageable problem." So we have this non-war war in which he insists that we will not have "boots on the ground" even though we'll clearly have to if we are to win. And that reflects the fundamental flaw with the Democratic Party's foreign policy since Vietnam. Democrats focus on ending wars rather than winning them, a guarantee of failure. As Obama said in 2009, "I'm not concerned about victory."

Here are just a few examples of how he has made FUBAR his standard operating procedure:

- Insulted Great Britain, our closest ally, several times. Take a look: http://tinyurl.com/yldxmjh
- Sided with Marxist Honduran president Manuel Zelaya, a Hugo Chavez wannabe, who tried to make himself president-for-life in opposition to his own country's constitution.
- Did nothing to support the Iranian popular revolt against the jihadist mullahs
- Supported the Muslim Brotherhood (Al Qaeda) in Egypt
- Declared a "red line" in Syria then backtracked when Syria ignored it
- Refused normal military resupply to Israel during heavy fighting in Gaza and had John Kerry try to force a Hamas plan on Israel as a "compromise"
- Benghazi
- Threw away the victory in Iraq by not getting a status of forces agreement, the result being chaos and the rise of ISIS
- Ignored the resurgence of Russia
- Effectively erased the US-Mexican border
- Continues to gut the American military; plans to reduce the Navy to eight carrier battle groups and the Army to 1940 levels, stopped Tomahawk missile production, fired over 40 top general and flag officers
- And did I mention Benghazi?

British Prime Minister William Gladstone once said, "Here is my first principle of foreign policy: good government at home." Clearly, we don't have that. It's been one scandal after another. Why should we expect anything better from Obama's foreign policy?

Just look at his September 10 speech in which he finally explained, sort of, his ISIS "strategy" – sporadic air strikes and "working with our allies," whatever that means. Of course, he had to be dragged kicking and screaming into saying even that. So now we have this kinda sorta war with the not-exactly-a-coalition and it belongs to Obama no matter how much he tries to blame it on Bush. Most importantly, it would be unnecessary had he shown any kind of effective leadership before now.

We can only pray that, while he is asking our military to take on this new war, he won't continue gutting it. Degrading ISIS will be easier if he first stops degrading our own armed forces. As JFK once said, "domestic policy can only defeat us; foreign policy can kill us."

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

In Naomi Klein's latest book, "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate," Ms Klein says "We have not done the things that are necessary to lower emissions because those things fundamentally conflict with deregulated capitalism, the reigning ideology for the entire period we have been struggling to find a way out of this crisis. "We are stuck because the best way of averting this catastrophe is at odds with and threatens the elite minority that has a stranglehold over our economy, our political process, and most or our major media outlets."

This is a powerful, disturbing and very accurate observation of how our capitalistic system works and why if we continue allowing the elite to control our country and world we are all in major peril.

Groups such as; Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute and American Enterprise Institute are the leading climate deniers. The Heartland Institute (they always pick names that sound as though they have the best interest of all people in mind) host annual conferences of climate change skeptics but they really are no more than a free market think tank whose sole purpose is to push deregulation, privatization, cuts to government spending in these areas and push free market ideology. They are backed with enormous corporate funding as it is in the financial best interest of most of those corporations to have as little government interference as possible.

Countries such as Germany, as pointed out in the book, which is not a full neoliberal state, mostly because of the legacy of the WWII , has the strongest environmental movement in the world.

Twenty-five percent of their energy comes from renewable sources which is not only remarkable but proves that it can be done. But and it is a big But we must change our policies towards big business and business as usual. We must fight the climate deniers who do so, so that they can hold on to their inordinate profits. We must demand electoral reform and lower the number and power of lobbyists for the polluters, we must fight for the planet by curbing corporate power.

The fossil fuel industry's answer to everything is to drill more and extract more even though it is widely known and accepted that the amount of potential fuel in the ground and in the shale is finite. Renewable sources of energy threaten them because no one owns the wind the sun or the waves, they belong to all of us and are there to be exploited and will not run out unless the fossil fuel industries eventually cause the collapse of the entire ecosystem.

It all starts and ends with you!

Do not vote for those who promote these industries. Do not vote for those who accept money from these corporations. Do not listen or read media outlets that are owned by these interests. Start exploring sources that expose these businesses for what they are and what they do.

Read Naomi Klein's books, this one and her other excellent book "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism" and then you will be a more informed voter and participant in saving the planet from the disastrous practices of so many corporations that bent on putting profits before the health of our only home, mother earth.

Reminiscences from a 50 Year Career

Waterworld

Richard A. Engberg

I will reach a milestone in 2015, 50 years as water resources professional. When you reach such milestones, your mind often returns to the past. I find myself dwelling on my early years working in a private laboratory and how influential those years were on my life and about how lucky I was to get out when I did.

What is your perception of laboratories and the people who work in them? Mine was of rumpled people with wild hair in white coats working with liquids boiling in elaborate science fiction-like glass apparatuses. And, guess what? When I started working in the laboratory, it was very much like that.

Actually, my first real job was not working with water but was in a lab that developed ion exchange resins, those little beads that are found in water softener tanks that actually do "soften" water. This company, located in Redwood City, California, consisted of offices, laboratories and a separate manufacturing plant.

We worked with some really smelly organic chemicals. The one that I got up close and personal with was called trimethylamine and the smell was truly awful. When I got back to our apartment each day, the first thing I did was get out of my clothes, grab a shower, dress in clean clothes, and hang the work clothes outside to air out. My wife steered clear of me until I was cleaned up.

This was in the early 1960's. Neither the company nor the employees had a clue about environmental contamination and the environmental protection laws in the United States were few, indeed. The plant belched smoke into the atmosphere. Toxic? No doubt! In the labs, waste material that couldn't be poured down the drain, was put in "pit" bottles. The bottles were collected, taken outside and dumped into a pit dug in the soil behind the laboratory, or taken to San Francisco Bay and disposed of on the tidal flats. Water pollution? Soil contamination? Yes! I couldn't help but wonder about the potential damage to the environment and this was the beginning of my slow conversion to the environmentalist I am now.

In the mid-1990's, I was in the Redwood City area and drove past the address to show a colleague the location of my first real job. When we arrived, there were no buildings. Instead there was a high fence around the leveled property with a sign from the Environmental Protection Agency indicating that the area inside the fence was a CERCLA site, in other words, a seriously contaminated area.

I only worked there for 2.5 years before moving on to the U. S. Geological Survey. I kept in touch with a couple of the people I worked with in Redwood City. Within a matter of three or four years, the first of the people I worked with had died of lung cancer, followed in the next few years by several more.

Whether it was exposure to the nasty chemicals that we worked with or whether it was from smoking that did in my colleagues because they were heavy smokers, I'll never know. I would speculate that it was a combination of the two. My 50 years in water can be attributed to the fact that I got away from that lab at the right time. In those days, a lab could be a very dangerous place!

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