

## Mountain Women Minutes

Friday, 14 December 2012

A brief business meeting was held during the Mountain Women annual holiday brunch. There were thirty-seven in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Camille Kurtz.

Sylvia Stafford and members of Epicurious were thanked for the wonderful food; Pat Thompson was especially thanked for the beautiful decorations.

December birthdays were acknowledged:

Sylvia Theriault (5<sup>th</sup>), Kathryn Porter (9<sup>th</sup>), Mary Ellen Condon-Rall (11<sup>th</sup>), Beth Caister (13<sup>th</sup>), Lois Vitt (14<sup>th</sup>), Carolyn Barkley (16<sup>th</sup>), Jane Dalldorf (20<sup>th</sup>), Betty Kane (21<sup>st</sup>), Gloria Daly (22<sup>nd</sup>), Julia Manherz (27<sup>th</sup>), Sylvia Stafford and Nancy Nevill (28<sup>th</sup>).

The major agenda item was the election of new members to the Steering Committee. First thanks were offered to outgoing members Marti Szczur, Chris Casey, Cindy Coy, and Yvonne Behm. The election of nominees (with no additional names offered from the floor) was moved, seconded, and approved: Mary Ellen Condon-Rall, Michelle Clark, Maria Spence, and Christine White.

Announcements:

Cindy Coy announced and displayed new Wintergreen longitude latitude signs for sale at the Nature Foundation at Wintergreen. They are available in red, green, taupe, and blue.

Despite going off the Steering Committee, Chris Casey will continue to forward water service messages as she works with Jennifer of the water authority to turn the notification process over to them.

The next Mountain Women meeting is scheduled for Friday, 11 January at 10:00 and will be preceded by a Steering Committee meeting at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted

Carolyn L. Barkley, Recording Secretary.

See Next Page for November Minutes

## Wintergreen Mountain Women

Minutes, November 9, 2012

The November 2012 meeting of the Wintergreen Mountain Women was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 10:20 with approximately thirty in attendance.

The Devil's Knob neighborhood and Cindy Coy were thanked for hosting the event and for the refreshments.

New members included Dottie Rice (135 Elm Dr.), a resident of Fredericksburg and Nancy Schiewsow (178 Fortune's Point Lane), a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland.

November birthdays were announced and serenaded:

Helen Jacobs (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jean Bertelsen (10<sup>th</sup>), Kate Allenbach and Susan Soloman (12<sup>th</sup>), Suzanne Street (15<sup>th</sup>), Kim Juergens (17<sup>th</sup>), Carole Lonergan (19<sup>th</sup>), Susan Talarico (20<sup>th</sup>), Gana Dunlop (21<sup>st</sup>) and Mary Carlson (29<sup>th</sup>).

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as previously emailed to the membership.

The Treasury total as of the end of October was \$352.00.

### President's Report

- a. The Steering Committee met before the meeting to discuss nominees for next year's committee. At least one additional name is necessary; please contact Marti ([szczurm@gmail.com](mailto:szczurm@gmail.com)) with suggestions or if you are interested in serving yourself.
- b. The annual holiday brunch is scheduled for Friday, 14 December. The cost will be \$3.00 for the room and \$7.00 for the brunch, for a total of \$10.00. Epicurious is developing the menu and invitations (RSVPs required) will be emailed soon.
- c. Chris Casey has agreed to see what she can do to push responsibility for communications about water to either NCSA or WPOA.
- d. Marti asked what people thought about the website and did they use it. Concensus was that it was useful.
- e. Marti reminded members that Mountain Women would have an information table at the WPOA annual meeting (on Saturday, 10 November) in the Skyline Pavilion.

### Group Reports

- a. The gardening group will meet at the Village Garden Center in Fishersville for a wreath workshop on Friday, 16 November. The cost is \$15.00 and the workshop will be followed by lunch. This meeting will be the last until March. Upcoming events include a tour of the Tillman Lavender Farm on 21 June.
- b. The book club will meet at Sarah Scott's (125 Valley View Lane) on Monday, 12 November at 1:30. The book for this month is *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*.
- c. The handwork group will have its next meeting on Friday 7 December at Kathy Knowles' (67 Ravens Roost Lane) at 10:00.
- d. Epicurious met on Thursday, 8 November to plan the menu for the brunch. Remember that a limited number of people can be accommodated, so please RSVP when the email is sent out.

### Announcements

- a. Décor and More, an annual fundraiser for the Nature Foundation at Wintergreen, is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, 10-12 November in the lobby of the Mountain Inn.
- b. The Nelson County Artisan's Tour is scheduled for the 17 November. Kathy Knowles will be helping Nan Rothwell at Nan's studio.
- c. WPA has tickets available for the annual Virginia Consort Christmas concert scheduled for Sunday, 9 December. Please see the WPA website; tickets will sell out quickly.
- d. The Nature Foundation's annual report (and information table) will be presented after the WPOA annual meeting. Please plan to stay for the community group reports.

The next meeting of the Wintergreen Mountain Women is the holiday brunch on Friday, 14 December at 11:00.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40 and was followed by a wonderful demonstration of bow-making by Georgia Orphan. She presented very clear instructions that made all feel that they could return home and create beautiful packages this holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Barkley, Recording Secretary

See next page for October, 2012 minutes

Mountain Women  
Minutes  
Meeting of 12 October, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 25 in attendance.

Terri Brooks and members of Blackrock neighborhood were thanked for hosting and the refreshments.

- New member, Joanne Feickert of Fairway Woods, was welcomed.
- Sarah Scott was acknowledged for attendance after months of being unable to attend.
- Birthdays for the month of October were announced: Cindy Coy (10/7), Judy Bloom (10/9), Terri Brooks (10/16), Joyce Tate (10/18), Jean Davis (10/19), Mike Williams (10/19), Patty Roupe (10/20), Lola Reinsch (10/21), Anne Dowd (10/29), Glenna Martin (10/30), Shirley Brauning (10/31).
- Minutes of the September meeting were approved as distributed via email.
- Barbara Marker reported for Ellen Hampton, Treasurer, funds totaled \$264.82 prior to the meeting.
- Group Reports
  1. Gardening. The next meeting will be on Friday, 19 October at 10 am with the seed exchange at Marti Szczur's home. All are welcome whether they have seeds to share or not. Contact Marti if you plan to attend.
  2. Book Club. The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, 15 October at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). The group will discuss and make book selections (fiction and non-fiction) for the coming year.
  3. Handwork. Next meeting is Friday, 26 October at Sarah Scott's house. Next meeting will be December 7, due to the Thanksgiving holiday and continue on the regular fourth Friday in January, February, March and April.
  4. Epicurious. The planning meeting for the holiday brunch will be held Thursday, 8 November. More information will be provided by Sylvia Stafford.
- Announcements
  1. Nanci Taylor invited members to the free WPA concert tonight at Rockfish Presbyterian Church, as part of a new Valley Concert Series. The next concert will be Friday, 19 October at the Tuckahoe Clubhouse. Details on others dates and venues can be found on the WPA website.
  2. Sarah Scott reminded members of the general rules for the Bear Smart program and the need to lock car doors, remove food sources and report bear encounters to the police.
  3. Joyce Claman invited members to attend the Opportunity Ball on Friday, 26 October at Veritas to benefit the Nelson County Community Fund.

4. Cindy Coy shared events at the Nature Foundation including Pumpkin Party, 13 October; Owner Orientation, 27 October; Dinner Theater for the 2013 Special Trip, 2 November; and Décor and More, 9-11 November in the Mountain Inn Lobby.

The next meeting of Mountain Women will be hosted by Devils Knob Friday, 9 November at Trillium House.

President Marti Szczur adjourned the business meeting at 10:45 am.

The program followed the business meeting, with Terri Brooks introducing a panel of three pioneer mountain women: Hazel Griffith (1974), Joyce Tate (1983 PT) and Joan Stemmler (1992). Each woman commented on her experiences.

Hazel Griffith – First came to Wintergreen in November 1974 when her son was a part-time ski instructor, and there were only three houses on the mountain. She had a small one-bedroom condo near what is now the Mountain Inn. Later she built a house on Dogwood, when the road to Devils Knob was still dirt. At the time they were building the Devils Knob golf course which required truckloads of dirt to be brought up the mountain. In 1976, when there were now six houses, they started caroling at one home until they had all six families out caroling. Hazel also made the first “hole-in-one” on the Devils Knob course

In her opinion, Wintergreen appeals to a certain type of people who have respect for nature. Everyone is friendly, and there is never a need to worry about security.

Joyce Tate – Joyce came to Wintergreen in 1983 and stayed with friends at the Blackrock condos, so she could ski and golf. She was amazed that the golf course was above the ski slopes, and that she had to pass a test to ski the Highlands. Later she became friends with Hazel and had her son Randy Thompson as her realtor. Joyce and her husband build a house on the 5<sup>th</sup> hole of the golf course next to the old Blue Spruce that used to sit in the middle of the fairway. In those days, everyone had to stop at the gatehouse and get a pass to come up the mountain.

Joan Stemmler – On Joan’s January birthday in 1992, she got to choose her destination weekend, which was Wintergreen. They ate at the Gristmill in the Mountain Inn lobby and noticed all the real estate listings and saw how the values comparatively were so low. She and her husband Ed were attracted by the security, services and the natural beauty. She connected with The Nature Foundation, housed at that time “under the steps” in what is now called the game room, and soon began leading hikes. The house where she lives is buffered by a second lot that has 48 pink Ladyslippers as well as other unusual plants she has found over the years. Hiking nearly every weekend, Joan soon was active in the Nature Foundation board and WPOA board, spurred by her desire to protect the forest.

Mountain Women grew out of Mountain Homesteaders membership, so there would be an opportunity for woman who lived on the mountain to network and meet new people. Joan, Irma Graf and Kate Allenbach organized the first meeting and laid the groundwork for what it is today. A more complete history can be found on the Mountain Women website ([www.wintergreenmountainwomen.com](http://www.wintergreenmountainwomen.com)).

There was gradual growth at Wintergreen until the Wintergarden opened in 1984 and building picked up. Over the years the ARB home review jumped from 3-5 per month to more than 100 per month. During that boom more lee way was given to builders, but “we are back to doing a better job of preserving the nature at Wintergreen.”

The group acknowledged Joan Stemmler’s work in raising the collective consciousness of the community regarding the protection of Wintergreen’s nature. In honor of her last meeting before moving permanently to Pennsylvania, Joan was presented a Memory Book, prepared by Chris Casey, and filled with photos and notes from her Mountain Women friends.

## Mountain Women Minutes from Friday, September 14, 2012

President Marti Szczur opened the meeting at 10:20am.

The September program was presented first and was given by Lynn Coffey, who lives in Love, Virginia. Lynn is the author of three books, which capture the heart and soul of Appalachian culture from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. She also was the creator and editor of "Backroads", a newspaper detailing the life of the people living in the mountains. She gave an interesting and enthusiastic account of her journey to become an editor and author. For more information, she can be reached at [www.backroadsbooks.com](http://www.backroadsbooks.com).

### Business Meeting

- Thanks were expressed for the refreshments, which were provided by the Laurel Springs neighborhood.
- New members Judy Jumper and Kathy Tardy were introduced and welcomes.
- September birthdays were announced and serenaded. [9/1 Christine Casey; 9/20 Gwynn Litchfield; 9/21 Susan Moore; 9/21 Sara Dassance; 9/24 Cynthia DeLuca; 9/25 Diane Cranis; 9/25 Joan Hines; 9/27 Marybeth Matthews; 9/27 Hilary Partridge]
- The August minutes were approved. The treasurer's report showed that MW have \$332 in our checking account with \$61 to be added from today's meeting.
- Group meetings:
  - The Gardening group will have a meeting on Friday, Sept 21st at Cindy Coy's house. Attendees will discuss the good, the bad and the ugly of their experiences with plants and gardening on the mountain. The annual seed/plant exchange will be held on October 19th. Details to be announced later by Jill Toop.
  - Barbara Porter announced that the Book Group will not meet in September. There will be a planning meeting on Monday, October 15 at 1:30 at Sarah Scott's house. Each member can bring one suggestion each for fiction and/or non-fiction. Each will give a five minute overview of each book. The group will then select which books to read for the next six months.
  - No report from the Epicurious Group. They will be meeting soon to begin planning the menu for the Mountain Women's annual Holiday Brunch or Lunch.

The next meeting of Mountain Women will be held at The Trillium House on Friday, October 12. Blackrock neighborhood will host. The program will be a panel discussion on the history of Wintergreen, given by various 'been-living-on-mountain-for-lots-of-years' members. This meeting will also be an occasion to offer thoughtful goodbyes and well wishes to Joan Stemmler, who in October is moving from the mountain to a retirement community near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Submitted by Sue Carlson

See next page for August, 2012 minutes

Mountain Women  
Minutes, 10 August 2012

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Camille Kurtz at 10:30 am with approximately 25 members in attendance.

Devil's Knob neighborhood was thanked for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments.

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as distributed.

New members were introduced:

- Mimi Scott, a resident of Florida who has rented here 5-6 months out of the year for the past three years.
- Merrilee Tooker, a resident of Tarpon Springs, Fla., who summers here in the Vistas Condos
- Betsy Brown, a resident of Hilton Head, has spent summers here for 30 years and lives in Dobie Condos
- Michelle Clark is now full-time in Fairway Oaks
- Glenda Cox (not present)
- Nancy Schwiesow (not present)

Birthdays for August were:

Cindy Cobb (1), Polly Williams (5), Dooty Rice (12), Pat Harvey (14), Marti Szczur (16), Diann Woolridge (17), Kathy Tardy (21), Lynnda Gilliam (21), Martha Wertz (28), Joanne Treet (29), Martha Misker (31), Hazel Griffith (31)

Group Reports:

- Gardening: The group meets the third Friday of each month. August's meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> is a tour of mountain gardens and those attending should meet at Jill Toop's at 10:00 am (82 Warrior Run).
- Book Club: The group meets on the Monday following Mountain Women. August's meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> is at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). The book for this month is Adriana Trigiani's *Shoemaker's Wife*. September meeting will include suggestions for upcoming books. If you have a fiction or non-fiction book you'd like to recommend, please give a brief review at that meeting.
- Epicurious: The group meets every other month (even months). The next meeting is scheduled for October, details to be announced.
- Handiwork: The group meets the fourth Friday of the month beginning in October.

Announcements:

- The Behms have returned home, although Yvonne has rebroken her wrist.
- WPOA Board will meet on the afternoon of 10 August. Martha Misker announced that one of the projects being considered for next year's budget is screening the Chestnut Springs Pavilion.
- Thanks were offered to all who assisted with the summer music festival.
- *Foxfire* is a production being presented next to the Devil's Backbone by a group from Georgia.
- Décor and More is scheduled for Veteran's Day weekend. Cindy Coy is collecting "interesting bottles," no tops necessary.

- Melissa Hutchinson at the Nature Foundation needs ½ gallon milk cartons (with tops) for an exhibit.

The next meeting of Mountain Women is scheduled for Friday, 14 September at Chestnut Springs Pavilion.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30.

See next page for July, 2012 minutes

## Mountain Women Minutes

13 July 2012

The July meeting began with the annual concert by Music Festival Academy students. The group was introduced by Larry Alan Smith. The four students were dubbed the Crawfords Climb String Quartet, made up of 2 violins, a viola and a cello. They played wonderful pieces from Schubert and Ravel. Their ability to play so beautifully together was made even more enjoyable by the knowledge that they have only been playing together for about four days and only a few had played the music prior to learning it for the Academy. They received a well-deserved standing ovation.

The business meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at approximately 10:55, with 25 in attendance.

- Sylvia Stafford and the Laurel Springs neighborhood were thanked for hosting the meeting and providing great refreshments.

- New members were introduced: Judy Dewitt, a full-time resident as of October, living on Lady Slipper, and formerly from Williamsburg; and Lee Klousia of Alexandria, a week-end resident on Fortune's Ridge.

- July birthdays were announced and serenaded:

Nancy Wilkinson (9th); Ellen English, Kathy Gunner, and Sarah Scott (15th); Barbara Marker (19th); Sue Stiller (24th); and Jeanne White (25th).

- The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

- Ellen Hampton reported that the treasury, as of the end of June, totaled \$326.00, an increase of \$58.00 for the year.

- President Marti Szczur reported on the Steering Committee meeting. After a discussion concerning birthday e-cards, the committee agreed to continue the process. All members are encouraged to indicate changes of email when they sign in at Mountain Women meetings. [PC users need to keep their Adobe Flash up to date to facilitate opening cards; Mac users will need to use another browser other than Safari which does not support Flash. Try Puffin as an alternate.] She also mentioned the volunteer opportunities article that Chris Casey is writing for The Link.

### Group Reports

- There will be no gardening group meeting in July. The group will resume its normal third-Friday schedule on Friday, 17 August. The program will be announced at a later date.

- The Book Club will meet Monday 16 July at Sarah Scott's [125 Valley View Lane]. The book for this month is Clyde Edgerton's *Walking Across Egypt*. The book for August's discussion will be *Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriana Trigiani.

- Handiwork does not meet during the summer months.

- Epicurious had a successful June social event. The group will take the month of August off due to everyone's busy schedule and will resume in October. Program to be announced.

### Announcements:

- Several bear sightings were announced. Remember to report them to the Police Department when they occur.

- The Nature Foundation is sponsoring a three-part Farm to Fork series. You can sign up by calling the Nature Foundation or by stopping by.

## Monthly Meeting of Mountain Women

June 8, 2012

Chestnut Springs Pavilion

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 10:20 am. Approximately 25 members were in attendance. Marti recognized and thanked Terri Brooks and Black Rock Circle neighborhood for hosting and providing the delicious refreshments.

### Introduction of new members:

Karen Carow owns a home on Pedler's Edge. At this time she is here part time, but plans to move here permanently from Southern Maryland in a few years. Dawn Perusse introduced herself as a member who attended MW once last year.

### Birthdays:

Helen Eisenhart reported the following birthdays: June 1, Susan McIver, June 4, Marilou Barratt, June 5, Gwynn Cain, Joy Leman and Eloise Strand, June 18, Christine White, June 20, Sue Carlson, June 22, Anne Decker, June 23, Joanne White, June 25, Sandi Myer, June 27, Arleen Stone, June 28 Lynne Luessen, June 29, Barbara Norton, and June 30, Camille Kurtz. The birthday celebrants were feted with an enthusiastic verse of 'Happy Birthday'.

### Approval of Minutes:

Camille Kurtz made a motion that the minutes of May, 12, 2012 be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Mary Carlson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report:

Ellen Hampton, Treasurer, reported that there is \$254.00 in the treasury as of end of May. This is only down 14 dollars year-to-date.

### President's Report:

Marti reported that the MW Steering Committee is reviewing the procedure for recognizing members' birthdays. Helen Eisenhart has been sending e-birthday greetings via email, but only a few members open their e-cards. Marti asked that members consider alternative means of recognizing birthdays and give those suggestions to either Marti or Helen to consider at the next Steering Committee meeting on July 13.

### Group reports:

Gardening: Jill Toop reported that the group will meet at 11 am on June 15, in front of the LBJ garden by Devil's Grill to weed the garden and enjoy lunch following the weeding. She anticipates it will take

about an hour to weed and lunch reservations are at 12 noon. Vera Jones will coordinate the activities in Jill's absence. Jill invited new members to join the group by sending her an email to the effect.

Book Group: Sue Carlson reported in the absence of Barbara Porter. The next meeting of the Book Group will take place at Sarah Scott's home on June 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a departure from the regularly scheduled meetings which are held on the Monday following the Friday general meeting on Mountain Women. The book for this month is Why Americans Don't Like Politics by D.J. Dionne. The books for July and August are Walking Across Egypt by Clyde Edgerton and The Shoemaker's Wife by Adriana Trigiani, respectively. Marti reported that the Book Group is evaluating the future direction and a reorganizing meeting was held earlier this month. In July and August the group will follow the present format. Kathy Knowles will lead the discussion in July and Sarah Scott will lead in August. The club will meet in September and each member has the option of presenting briefly 2 books, one nonfiction and one fiction, for the group to consider reading over the next six months. A vote will be taken and those books that receive the 6 highest votes will be the books that will be read over the months from October to March. The person whose book was chosen will be the leader when that book is discussed. Additionally, the leader will be responsible for providing light refreshments. An evaluation of the new structure will be held in April. Barbara Porter, the group leader since inception of the club will remain as communicating secretary.

Handwork group: This group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month. The last meeting was in April. The group has discontinued meetings for the summer and will begin again in the fall.

Epicurious group: This group consists of gourmet and gourmet wanta-bes and meets every other month on the Thursday before the general Mountain Women's meeting. The next event is June 13, 2012 at the home of Maria and Paul Spence. It has already "sold out."

#### Announcements:

Robin Keenan Jones with Wintergreen Performing Arts (WPA) is seeking housing for a number of Summer Music Festival musicians, and in some cases, their families. She reviewed the responsibilities of the homeowners who are willing to provide accommodations as well as the rewards for doing so. Several MW members exalted the experiences they have had over the past years. In many cases lasting friendships have been formed. Karen distributed a list of those still needing housing and asked those members interested in helping to call her at 325-8292.

Millie Steele, Event Chair for WPA, distributed the list of fundraising events planned from 2012-2013. Those attending the opening night of the Summer Music Festival will have an opportunity to sign up for the events. After that, one can sign up for an event on the WPA website. See the attached list of events.

Allison Hunter, Executive Director, Wintergreen Adaptive Sports is seeking volunteers for the upcoming (June 30-July 1) Wintergreen Adventure Challenge which will benefit the Wintergreen Adaptive Sports organization. This is a 7 mile, 20 obstacle course. The resort is in need of 75 volunteers to help with the event. Allison is hopeful that some of the members of MW will be able to help. Volunteers may call the office at 434 325-2007 or email her at: [ExecutiveDirector.WAS@gmail.com](mailto:ExecutiveDirector.WAS@gmail.com) The resort has requested that volunteers offer their services by June 20. A sign up sheet was circulated. Allison also was encouraged to put a notice in the Wintergreen e-bulletin board.

Nancy Taylor, VP of WPA, presented another volunteer opportunity. The Summer Music Festival Academy students have 5 dinners each week provided at the Edge, but volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver 2 dinners on the weekend. Lynn Luessen is coordinating this activity and she may be contacted at 325- 6864, or [lynnluessen@verizon.net](mailto:lynnluessen@verizon.net)

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held July 13, 2012 at the Trillium House. The program will be a performance by students in the WPA Summer Music Festival Academy.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Program:

Sue Carlson gave a review of her recent trip to Cuba, which was sponsored by the Grand Circle Foundation and sanctioned by the US State Department as a humanitarian visit. Of interest is that she was required to obtain a license to visit Cuba and must keep this permanently and present it with her passport when she travels internationally. Sue enlightened us on the history of Cuba over the last 60 years including the revolution, Cuban missile crisis and the US embargo.

Sue stayed in beautiful 5 star hotels that rivaled others in other countries. The food included much local freshly caught fish, some vegetables, beans and rice. All food was organic, since fertilizer cannot be imported due to the embargo. The group visited 3 cities: Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Havana and Cienfuegos are both UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Highlights of the trip included seeing many restored antique US cars in Havana, touring cathedrals, art galleries, a coffee farm, and meeting with many Cuban people.

The educational system provides free education through college; however, there are limited jobs available for the graduates. Some immigrate to South American countries. Jobs in general are limited; most people live modestly, but not in poverty. There still is food rationing. The health care system provides free care to all citizens and gives children's health a high priority. The constitution provides for freedom of religion.

Many foreign countries, including England and China are investing in the country. China is building an oil rig, which is of concern to the residents of Florida because of limited regulation and questionable ability to effectively clean up an oil spill. In conclusion, Sue said she truly enjoyed her trip and recommends it to others.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gunner

Mountain Women  
Minutes  
Meeting of 11 May 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 20 in attendance.

Yvonne Behm and members of The Springs neighborhood were thanked for the refreshments and for bringing the meeting indoors.

- New member, Allison Hunter, Fairway Woods, was welcomed. Allison also is the new executive director of Wintergreen Adaptive Sports.
- Birthdays for the month of May were announced: Sally Boykin (1<sup>st</sup>), Allison Hunter (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tam Smith (4<sup>th</sup>), Gail Neal (6<sup>th</sup>), Renee Acosta (6<sup>th</sup>), Margaret Adams (15<sup>th</sup>), Lee Klousia (26<sup>th</sup>) and Mary Klein (30<sup>th</sup>).
- Minutes of the April meeting were approved as distributed via email.
- Barbara Marker reported for Ellen Hampton, Treasurer, funds totaled \$280.11 prior to the meeting.
- Group Reports
  1. Gardening. The next meeting will be on Friday, 18 May with tours of MW gardens starting at 9:30 am at garden of Jill Toop, 82 Warrior Run. April's meeting consisted of container gardening at Waynesboro Nursery as well as a tour of their new annual and perennials.
  2. Book Club. The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, 14 May at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren is this month's book.
  3. Handwork. No announcement for the next meeting. Sarah Scott will be contacted.
  4. Epicurious. The June 7 meeting will be a cocktail party. Details will be announced soon.
- Announcements
  1. Lynn Luessen reported the Nature Foundation Wildflower Symposium will be May 18-20. A volunteer is needed to help pass out lunches. Vera Jones volunteered.
  2. Lynnda Gilliam announced that the Wintergreen Performing Arts box office is now open and the 2012 Festival brochure is available. The annual events fair will be held on the Festival's opening night. One event that will go fast is the gourmet dinner at the Spence home by Chef Ben Thompson.
  3. Mary Carlson reminded MW members of the USPS food drive being conducted Saturday, 12 May. Canned and dry goods can be left inside the Post Office kiosk
  4. Allison Hunter announced the Wintergreen Adaptive Sports golf tournament is 21 July.
  5. Yvonne Behm announced the Antique Fair and Sale at Stoney Creek, Saturday, 12 May with proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity.
  6. Cindy Coy announced the WPI June 2 Hike Wintergreen event cosponsored by the Nature Foundation and urged people to hike. She also reminded members of the Nature Foundation annual Sara Ott Golf Classic on Friday, September 14. She is looking for

items to include in a live auction and a small silent auction, such as vacation getaways, events, dinner/meals, professional services.

The next meeting of Mountain Women will be held on Friday, 8 June at Chestnut Springs Pavilion. Sue Carlson will present a program on her trip to Cuba. Refreshments will be provided by Black Rock.

The program followed the business meeting, with Jean Bertelsen and Lynn Luessen, members of the Nature Foundation plant propagation program, presenting mountain gardening tips with native plants.

Wintergreen's native plants have learned to co-evolve with their surroundings so they are suited for where they grow. This community is exceptional for its plant diversity that attracts birds, bees and other pollinators. Surprisingly most native plants do better in poor soil and require less water.

Currently, the program has 2,800 plants in stock that can grow in a variety of conditions. This is accomplished with a greenhouse, a corps of volunteers and a summer intern. New volunteers are always welcomed on Tuesday mornings; no experience is necessary.

Plants are propagated by seeds collected by volunteers as well as shrubs grown from cuttings.

The Nature Foundation web site now has details on the plants available as well as other info on how to grow certain plants, what is blooming now and other helpful information.

You can shop for natives at two upcoming sales at the Nature Foundation – May 18-21 or May 26-28. A third sale may be held later in the year at the Beech Grove greenhouse. Plant handouts and order forms were distributed. Orders can be left at the Nature Foundation cash register.

President Marti Szczur adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am.

See next page for April Minutes

## Mountain Women

Minutes, 13 April 2012

The program presentation preceded the business meeting. This month's speaker was Tommy Stafford, Editor and Publisher of *Nelson County Life*. In his informative and entertaining presentation, he shared that he and his wife Yvette had moved here (to Afton) in 2003, following a search for a community that would potentially support their dream of starting a monthly publication telling stories of the people and happenings around them. The first issue was April 2005, marking this month the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Nelson County Life*. He brought copies of that first issue and the current issue for each of us. Their print run is about 11,000 copies. Plus, they experience over 25,000 reads each month of the digital version. All issues of the past 5 years are online. He commented that niche publications such as theirs are doing well. They're so glad that they chose Nelson County, and they're here to stay. They're looking forward to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that will be celebrated by some sort of party, and perhaps a compilation of the best stories of *Nelson County Life*.

The meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 11:20 a.m. with approximately 25 in attendance.

- Blackrock neighborhood was thanked for hosting the meeting and for the refreshments.
- We welcomed one new member, Diane Woolridge. They've owned a home on Hickory Springs for several years. She lives in Lynchburg.
- Birthdays for April. Helen was not present, nor was the birthday list. It was determined that the only member present with her birthday in April was Ellen Hampton (Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>).
- The minutes of the March meeting were approved as distributed.
- Ellen Hampton reported that, as of the end of March, the Treasury totaled \$298.92, a net increase of over \$30 since the first of the year.
- Marti reported on the Steering Committee Meeting held earlier this morning. Members confirmed that programs at MW meetings would be of a general interest to members and of a non-commercial nature. Sylvia Stafford took an action to see if this guideline needed clarification or inclusion in the MW By-Laws, and if so, she would craft a draft for the Steering Committee to review/approve. Sylvia reported that the Epicurious Group was offering to again prepare a brunch for the December meeting, which the Steering Committee hosts. To help in the planning and paying of the Holiday Brunch, it was decided that the attendees will pre-pay \$10 when they make their reservations, thus enabling the Epicurious Group to plan accordingly.
- Hazel Griffith thanked everyone for their notes of concern during the previous month when she was ill. She said she was so glad to be back!
- Group Reports
  - The Gardening Group. Their April meeting was to be held at the Waynesboro Garden Center for an interactive workshop on planting in containers. All those interested were advised to call or email Jill Toop at [gctoopt@aol.com](mailto:gctoopt@aol.com).
  - The Book Club meeting was canceled for April due to the host, Sarah Scott, falling, breaking her leg and recovering from surgery at Augusta Medical Center. Cards and visits would be very welcome!

- The Handwork Group. As Sarah was to host this meeting, as well, the location was changed to Jill Toop's home on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Epicurious Group met yesterday for a bread-making demonstration. They brought samples to share, "bread to go". They will next meet on Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> for a social gathering with invited guests.
  
- Announcements:
  - Chris Casey reported for Glenna Martin, reminding everyone of the WPA fundraiser, Casablanca, Where Rick's Café Awaits You, to be held in the Skyline Pavilion on Saturday, 21 April. There are tickets still available. See the [WPA website](#) for details.
  - Chris also mentioned the "Race to the River" to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chris announced that the WPA Music Festival booklets will be available in late April. She reminded all that some of the events sell out early (e.g., cooking classes), so sign up if interested.

The next meeting of Mountain Women will be held on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> with The Springs neighborhood hosting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

See next page for March Minutes

Mountain Women  
Minutes, 9 March 2012

- The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Camille Kurtz at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 20 in attendance.
- Devil's Knob neighborhood was thanked for hosting the meeting and for the refreshments.
- Birthdays for March:  
Karen Sykes (3<sup>rd</sup>), Yvonne Behm (5<sup>th</sup>), Louise Cesaro (7<sup>th</sup>), Georgia Orphan (8<sup>th</sup>), Vera Jones (14<sup>th</sup>), Lilly Schmiedtke(18<sup>th</sup>), Betsy Agelasto (19<sup>th</sup>), Joyce Claman (23<sup>rd</sup>), Ann Broks (24<sup>th</sup>) and Marylou Thibodeau (25<sup>th</sup>)
- The minutes of the February meeting were approved as distributed.
- Ellen Hampton reported that, as of the end of February, the Treasury totaled \$252.92.
- Group Reports
  - The Gardening Group will meet on Friday, 16 March, at 10:00, with a presentation by the county's Agriculture Agent, Mike Lachance. His presentation will be on container gardening. Jill will also ask him to include information on raised beds if there is time. The meeting will be held at Jill Toop's farm in the valley. Directions will be forthcoming in an email. If you would like to be placed on the gardening group's email list, please contact Jill at [gctoopt@aol.com](mailto:gctoopt@aol.com). Jill also indicated that the current issue of *Horticulture* magazine has an article on native plants.
  - The Book Club will meet on Monday, 12 March at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). The book for March is Pearl Buck's *Good Earth*. The meeting will begin with discussion at 11:00, followed by lunch at noon and a viewing of the movie.
  - The Handwork Group will meet on Friday, 23 March at 10:00 a.m. at Vera Jones' house (193 Raven's Roost Lane).
  - Epicurious will meet on Thursday, 12 April at Janelle Carroll's house (19 Raven's Roost Point) for a bread making demonstration.
- Announcements:
  - Glenna Martin reminded everyone of the WPA fundraiser, Casablanca, Where Rick's Café Awaits You, to be held in the Skyline Pavilion on Saturday, 21 April. See the [WPA website](#) for details. Cindy Morris is recreating Rick's Café and the evening will feature a live and silent auction, dinner, a dj with 40s music for dancing, and the piano music of Larry Allen Smith. Pre-event swing dance lessons will be available. For more information contact Glenna at [glenna@tripswithpets.com](mailto:glenna@tripswithpets.com) or 325-7447.
  - Betsy Agelasto shared brochures and information on a garden tour at Mount Sharon in Orange County on Mother's Day, 13 May. The proceeds benefit Preservation Virginia and the Boys and Girls Club of Orange, Virginia. Tickets and information are available by calling 540-661-0474 or at the [Preservation Virginia website](#). She also reminded members about the annual Garden Week scheduled for April 21-28. (Brochures are available at The Wintergreen Nature Foundation). The Rockfish Valley Foundation has formed an affiliation with the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville and will be hosting exhibits at the Spruce Creek Gallery building.
  - Cindy Coy reported that the builder for the construction at the corner of Wintergreen Drive and Blue Ridge Drive has obtained additional funding and new construction will begin this

- spring. The planned building will have a lower profile and contain both condos and hotel space as well as conference meeting areas.
- Barbara Marker reminded members of the Nature Foundation's Maple Sugar Days finale for Saturday, 10 March: Pancake Breakfast with Wintergreen's own maple syrup 8:00-11:00, a slide show about the maple sugar process, and a hike at 1:00 to see Wintergreen's sugarbushes and the sap collection process.

The next meeting of Mountain Women will be held on Friday, 13 April with Blackrock neighborhood hosting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The balance of the meeting was social.

See next page for February minutes

## Mountain Women Minutes

Friday, 10 February 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 25 in attendance.

- The minutes were accepted as corrected and distributed.
- Sylvia Stafford and the Laurel Springs neighborhood were thanked for providing refreshments.
- Two new members were in attendance:
  - Sylvia Theriault, a new full-time resident on High Pasture, relocating from California. She has been a property owner for ten years.
  - Joyce Tate, just retired and a resident of Manassas, is here part-time on Wood Lily.
- The birthday list for February includes:  
Lois Conrad (7<sup>th</sup>), Ginny Morton (8<sup>th</sup>), Kathy Knowles (9<sup>th</sup>), Irma Graf (10<sup>th</sup>), Wilma Gormley (15<sup>th</sup>), Nanci Taylor (17<sup>th</sup>), Carolyn Wood (21<sup>st</sup>), and Kathy Montgomery (27<sup>th</sup>).
- Treasurer's report: Ellen Hampton announced that as of the end of January, the treasury had a total of \$240.92.
- Groups:
  - Garden Club. The next meeting will be on Friday, 16 March, with a presentation by the county's Agriculture Agent, Mike Lachance. His presentation will be on growing vegetables on your deck.
  - The Book Club will meet on Monday, 13 February at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). The book for this month is Edna Ferber's *So Big*, which was published in 1924 and won a Pulitzer Prize. If you would like to join in the discussion, please contact either Barbara Porter ([ports1999@aol.com](mailto:ports1999@aol.com) or 325-7314) or Marti Szczur ([szczurmar@aol.com](mailto:szczurmar@aol.com) or 325-7164).
  - Handwork will meet on Friday, 24 February at Hilary Partridge's house (124 Wood Lily Lane) at 10:00. If you would like to be included on the group's email announcements, please contact Sarah Scott ([scottr1961@verizon.net](mailto:scottr1961@verizon.net) or 325-7375).
  - Epicurious met on Thursday, 9 February at Joyce Claman's house and enjoyed a pasta-making demonstration and lunch. The group meets every other month (even numbered months). The next meeting is Thursday, 12 April and will include a bread-making demonstration by Janelle Carroll. If you would like to receive emails about the group's activities, please email Sylvia Stafford ([sbstafford@verizon.net](mailto:sbstafford@verizon.net)).
- Announcements:
  - Nancy Nevill introduced Robyn Keenan Jones, who has just been hired by Wintergreen Performing Arts to handle housing for musicians during the festival. She will be working three days per week with an office in the Community Office Building.
  - Ellen English announced that the Nelson County SPCA Almost Home will be sponsoring a fund-raiser dance "Dance Your Winter Blues Away" on Saturday 10 March at the Rockfish Community Center. Tickets will be available at the door.

- Martha Misker announced that the first board WPOA board meeting is scheduled for Friday, 17 February. She mentioned that SVEC has placed a tower on the mountain in order to be able to diagnose power outages from their station.

The next meeting of Mountain Women is scheduled for Friday, 9 March at 10:00 at Trillium House.

Sylvia Stafford introduced Mary Ellen Condon-Rall as the morning's speaker. Mary Ellen is one of the founding members of Mountain Women. She obtained her PhD from University College of the University of London focusing on the 18<sup>th</sup> century British Navy. Since then her career has focused on twentieth-century military medicine. She has written several books including: *Disaster on Green Ramp* (1996), *The Medical Department: Medical Service in the War Against Japan* (1998), *The Medical Department: Medical Service in the European Theater of Operations* (1998), *The Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March and the Terrifying Battle for New Guinea-The Forgotten War of the South Pacific*, *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*, pt. 1-2 (House Document Series) (2003), and her latest, out late last year: *Attack on the Pentagon: the Medical Response to 911*.

Mary Ellen shared with the group her experience in learning to write disaster books: recognizing the personalities, who to interview, reading newspaper accounts, locating documents, choosing which actions to describe, and the importance of having talented people reading drafts.

Her newest book, *Attack on the Pentagon*, tells the story of both civilian and military response. Although the book covers a broader time period, her talk focused on the actions taken during the day of the attack, which occurred, ironically, on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1941 groundbreaking for the building. Mary Ellen provided a clear understanding of the physical layout of the Pentagon and how this layout helped and hindered medical response. The story emphasized the value of preparation and training. Pentagon medical personnel were well-trained in emergency response, having practiced with a table-top exercise just months before the attack. Serendipitously, the exercise focused on response to a commercial plane hitting the west side of the building. A mass casualty plan was in place and staff had practiced the actions included in it. The Arlington Fire Department had been a partner in this test. Because of this level of preparedness, response was immediate (within five minutes emergency centers were in operation) and organized (a previous decision to have medical staff/volunteers wear blue vests helped identify these individuals) even though those on the west side of the building (including civilian emergency responders and volunteers) could not communicate with Pentagon medical staff on the north side of the building. All of the victims who were able to get out of the building survived with the exception of one woman who later died due to smoke inhalation. All those who survived were able to get out of the building, or be rescued and evacuated within the first fifty minutes. Casualties totaled 125 (72 Army, 43 Navy and 10 DOD employees).

Insights provided by Mary Ellen's book and others have led Pentagon staff to revise emergency plans. Preparation and training truly paid off, but the experience underscored a need to learn how to use volunteers effectively and to control supplies efficiently and to have reliable communication. When any of these areas are weak, problems will occur.

The easiest way to purchase a copy of Mary Ellen's book is through Amazon; you can also order a copy through Barnes & Noble.

See next page for January 2012 minutes

Mountain Women  
Minutes  
Meeting of 13 January 2012

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 20 in attendance.

The program preceded the business meeting, with Melissa Hutchinson, Youth Program Coordinator for The Wintergreen Nature Foundation, as speaker.

Melissa's presentation provided an interesting overview of her work at the Nature Foundation over the last six to seven years. Her main responsibility is to provide youth programs within Nelson and surrounding counties as well as at the resort. Some of the goals of these programs include environmental and conservation education and getting kids out into nature while they learn. Other responsibilities include the planning for and maintenance of Robin's Nook in Trillium House.

As Nelson County ranks below the state average in the percentage of adults, aged twenty-five and over, who are high school graduates or individuals with bachelor's degrees, and as it has a high percentage of families living below the poverty level, it is important to give youth a real reason to learn. There are two elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school in Nelson County. These students either are bused to the Nature Foundation as a field trip, or Melissa and volunteers take the program into the schools. These programs provide a mixture of engagement, active learning, and fun. In addition, the schools benefit as the programs help them meet MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience) requirements. A new program in the past year was the Earth Day Festival, held at the high school. This program represented an expansion into new ways to program with groups of students providing ideas and planning, with consulting support from Melissa and school faculty.

Project Opportunity is an after school tutoring program at Rockfish River Elementary School. The work is project based, meets twice per week, and is led by people in the community. Tutors supply math and science lessons based on the projects. Melissa has been working on a six-week bluebird trail project (lots of bird houses being built!).

The Wish List Program helps provide teachers with materials for their classrooms that they might not otherwise be able to purchase with limited budgetary funding. This program is in the form of a mini-grant request which is submitted by the teacher. While in the past requests have been for traditional science-based school room supply materials, recent requests have included benches for an outdoor garden created by one school/class; science/environmental education content books requested by a reading specialist; and materials for organic clay projects requested by an art teacher.

After a brief break, the business meeting was called to order at approximately 11:10 a.m. by President Marti Szczur.

- Yvonne Behm and members of The Springs neighborhood were thanked for the refreshments.
- New member, Carole Lonergan (of Northern Virginia and Fairway Oaks), was welcomed.
- Birthdays for the month of January were announced: Joan Stemmler (11<sup>th</sup>), Joyce Smith (15<sup>th</sup>), Kathy Ely (20<sup>th</sup>), Helen Eisenhart (22<sup>nd</sup>), Barbara Porter (29<sup>th</sup>), and Wendy Valentine (31<sup>st</sup>).
- Minutes of the December meeting were approved as distributed via email.
- Ellen Hampton, Treasurer, reported funds (prior to the meeting) totaled \$268.14.

- Steering Committee Report. The committee met at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed two new members, Ellen Hampton and Sylvia Stafford. Officers for 2012 are: President, Marti Szczur; Vice President, Camille Kurtz; Treasurer, Ellen Hampton; Communicating Secretary, Christine Casey; and Recording Secretary, Carolyn Barkley. Sylvia will be serving as the Laurel Springs neighborhood chair.
- Group Reports
  1. Gardening. The next meeting will be on Friday, 16 March, with a presentation by the county's Agriculture Agent, Mike Lachance. His presentation will be on growing vegetables on your deck.
  2. Book Club. The next meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 16 January at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). In keeping with the current theme of reading Pulitzer Prize winning titles, this month's book is Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.
  3. Handwork. The handwork group will hold its first meeting of 1012 on Friday, 27 January at 9:30 a.m. at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). Joan Stemmler promises to wear the sweater that she's been working on forever.
  4. Epicurious. A planning meeting was held on Thursday, 12 January. This year's fund raiser will be in support of Wintergreen Performing Arts. The group normally meets the Thursday before Mountain Women in even number months. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9 February and will include a bread-making demonstration by Janelle Carroll or a demonstration of pasta-making by Joyce Claman. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sylvia Stafford ([sbstafford@verizon.net](mailto:sbstafford@verizon.net)).
- Announcements
  1. Eloise Strand, a board member with Wintergreen Adaptive Sports reported that the board needs new directors, particularly someone with accounting or legal/attorney experience. The term is for three years and, if interested or you know someone who might be interested, please contact her at [hrdyna@aol.com](mailto:hrdyna@aol.com) or 325-2067.
  2. Cindy Coy announced that she was looking for housing volunteers for the Wintergreen Alpine Special Invitational (WASI) to be held the weekend of January 23-24. If you can provide housing, please contact her at [ccoylewtg@msn.com](mailto:ccoylewtg@msn.com) or 325-9144.

The February meeting of Mountain Women will be held on Friday, 10 February at 10:00 at The Wintergreen Nature Foundation. Mary Ellen Condon Rawls will be speaking about her new book. Refreshments will be provided by Laurel Springs.