

The Log Book

What's New at the Snickersville Academy & Bluemont

August 2013, Vol. 2, No. 2

"Where the Bears Are"

Blue Ridge Mountain Home Tour: October 19 Art in the Foothills: October 18-19-20

At the turn of the century, many escaped the city heat of Washington by building gracious vacation homes on the Blue Ridge. Now Friends of Bluemont's <u>first-ever</u> **Blue Ridge Mountain Home Tour** of historic homes on the Blue Ridge will benefit <u>Snickersville Academy</u> <u>restoration</u> (Bluemont's first schoolhouse and church -- built in 1825) and the <u>Boulder Crest</u> <u>Retreat</u> (welcoming its first rehab recovering veterans and their families this September).



Advance tickets cost \$25 each; \$30 on Day of Tour. After August 15, buy online using credit card — visit http://bouldercrestretreat.org/. Or send check to "Friends of Bluemont," P.O. Box 214, Bluemont, VA 20135.

Friends of Bluemont's "Art in the Foothills" an annual juried showcase for local artists—will be held that same weekend (18th-19th-20th) now at The Lodge at Boulder Crest Retreat.

Volunteer for the Home Tour. Take a half - or full-day shift as a Home Guide or Parking Ranger. Contact Susan Falknor, 540-554-2964, susanfre@roadstarinternet.net. Home Tour details at www.BluemontVA.org.

Remembering visits to Grandma — Susie Neal's grandchildren (now themselves grandparents), will talk with visitors at the Snickersville Academy during the Bluemont Fair (September 21-22). Susie Neal's family lived in the Snickersville Academy building from the 1940s through 1970s.



Green Spring Farm, one of the homes on the tour, with the Loudoun Valley in the background The house originated as a log cabin in the late 1700s.

Home Tour Highlights

- **Green Spring Farm.** Expanded from 1700s log and stone house. Dramatic views across the Loudoun Valley.
- Twin Oaks, Tavern & Winery. Stunning Stone Home, now a winery.
- Checkmate Farm. Sheep & Chicken farm.
 Early 1800s. A dramatic southeastern viewpoint for Mosby's Rangers,
- **Eagle Rock.** Beautiful late 19th century Victorian stone home
- **High Meadows.** Built 1896, elegant Victorian stone home, with six out buildings, including a schoolhouse.
- Foxglove Retreat. Lovely home and gardens, lots of antiques, luxurious guest suit with spectacular view of the Shenandoah Valley.
- **Snickersville Academy.** Bluemont's first schoolhouse (1825) now being restored.
- Art in the Foothills. Juried show for local artists — at the Lodge, Boulder Crest Retreat.

Friends of Bluemont: LIKE us on FACEBOOK.

The Lox Book, Vol. 2, No. 2, August 2013, Page 2

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Major Repairs at Historic Academy By Mark Zalewski

As we go to press, major work is underway to remedy the 6-inch tilt of the Snickersville Academy (built 1825) and restore the chimney, foundations, and log walls.



The cabin is now upright, thanks to skilled log craftsmen Eric Westergard and Bluemont's own Martie Bailey (pictured above) and their temporary "cribbing" (platform of timbers).

The cribbing likely will still be in place at the time of the Bluemont Fair, but we will provide a temporary access so visitors can walk inside.

Stonemason Ed Ashby made the finishing touches to the restored fireplace while three masons repaired and pointed the chimney. They removed the south wall siding and the long, V-shaped masonry infill between the chimney and the cabin.

After rebuilding the compromised north foundation, they will repair the other three foundations, place new sill (bottom) logs, and chink and daub the log walls. □

~Our Vision~

- **♦Snickersville Academy Park**. A self-guided visitor's destination with interpretive signs.
- **♦ A window on Bluemont's beginnings.** Bluemont's first school and church (c. 1825).
- ♦ A link to Bluemont's Black history. It lies at the start of the Old Mountain Road, leading to a post-Civil-War Free Black community.

Help Save the Snickersville Academy!

Follow our website & join online:

www.BluemontVA.com.

Membership: Individual - \$25; Family \$30; Supporter- \$50; Sustaining - \$100.
 Mail to Friends of Bluemont, P.O. Box 214,
 Bluemont, VA 20135.

Email friendsofbluemont@gmail.com.

Volunteer? Suggestions? 540-554-2964.

Workmen Unload New Street Sign

The new marker for "Bluemont Village Lane" goes up between the Old Dance Hall and Epling Landscaping offices, The new lane leads up to the Boulder Crest Retreat, which this summer will receive its first families.



2013 Fundraising Report—Thank You!

Thanks to all members of Friends of Bluemont and donors who are helping to realize the dream of a restored Snickersville Academy in Bluemont, the village's first school and church.

- ♦Appreciation of Earth & Animals Fdn: \$12,000.
- **♦**Loudoun Preservation Society: \$4,900.
- ♦First Potomac Foundation: \$2,800.
- ♦Robey Charitable Trust: \$500.
- **♦**Luminescence Foundation: \$500.
- ♦Plus about \$4,500 in other donations. □