

The Log Book

What's New at the Snickersville Academy & Bluemont Summer 2012, Vol. 1, No. 1

Snickersville Academy Stabilization Update

By MARK ZALEWSKI

A delicate process began in May to level the floor of the Snickersville Academy and to repair or replace some logs in the south wall.

The first step in investigating the cause of the sloping floor on the north side of the building was to open the floor to gain access. We found that a few of the stones supporting the floor joists in the northwest corner have moved over the century-plus, removing solid floor support. We placed temporary jacks under the joists to aid in the replacement of permanent stonework beneath them.

We have also removed some of the stone above the fireplace to allow proper access to the damaged chimney and to expose the logs that extend the entire width of the cabin in front of the chimney. Slowly, the south facing log wall will be jacked up to allow for removal of three time-worn logs and to fit new logs in the joinery style of 1825 log cabin corner joints.

We anticipate completing the log replacement on the south wall by the end of August.

Feeding the Muse Fundraiser Lawn Party Held at Carrington House

Feeding the Muse -- a new company that creates a community that nourishes and inspires the individual artist - sponsored a spring lawn party at historic Carrington House in Bluemont to raise contributions for the Snickersville Academy.

Annabel Hughes, a long-time friend of the Academy and owner of Carrington House, arranged the June 2nd outstanding evening of music, wine, flowers, and conviviality.

Grandchildren of decades-long Academy resident Susie Neal returned to their "homeplace" to join the festivities. $\mbox{\Box}$

At *Feeding the Muse* fundraiser, Sue Gibson Colbert hugs her grandmother's (Susie Neal's) old neighbor, Betty Poston Colbert. Photo: Cynthia Morris. **See picture, right**. ⇔

Come to the Bluemont Fair— Visit the Snickersville Academy

On September 15 and 16, 2012, from 11-3, Friends of Bluemont will offer hourly tours of the Snickersville Academy as part of the Bluemont Fair. This will be the second year for this fun and fascinating activity. Learn about the people who-over time--studied, worshipped, and lived there.

Fundraising Campaign for Snickersville Academy Makes a Strong Start

An outpouring of community support is swelling our 2012 efforts to raise funds to stabilize and restore the 1825 Snickersville Academy in Bluemont, the village's first school and church. These grants represent, not simply generous donations, but also crucial votes of confidence in our restoration work. Thank you! **Loudoun Preservation Society:** \$8,600 Bluemont Citizens Association: \$5,000 Falke Family:\$5,000.00 (matching BCA) First Potomac Foundation: \$1,200.00

Appreciation Earth & Animals Fdn: \$500 Plus about \$4,000 in contributions

made in excess of membership dues and other donations this year. We are now about one-third the way to our goal. Estimated total needed for stabilization and restoration: \$60,000-\$70,000.



Breaking Ground at Boulder Crest Retreat

By AMY PETTIT

On May 18, 2012, the Boulder Crest Retreat for Wounded Warriors officially broke ground on a sunny hilltop above Bluemont. A mere idea two years ago, the 37-acre privately funded Loudoun county sanctuary for wounded warriors is set to open next year. Founder Ken Falke and family hosted nearly 300 dignitaries, supporters, donors, board members, county officials, friends, and family. <u>http://bouldercrestretreat.org/about</u>



Skydiver U.S. Army Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Dana Bowman, a double amputee, parachuted in to speak at the Boulder Crest ceremony.

Snickersville Academy Visits Laurel Grove

Outreach efforts to visit other one-room schools took an inspiring turn as Susan Freis Falknor and Tobi Moore visited Laurel Grove, the restored free Black school in Fairfax on April 7. Built in 1881, this was one of many "colored schools" in the South after the Civil War. Former slave William Jasper and his wife Georgiana deeded one-half acre from their 13acre farm to the local Franconia school district. . www.laurelgroveschool.com. p

**** ☆ ☆ Help Save the Snickersville Academy! ☆ ☆ Follow our website or 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. \checkmark ****************



Events Around Bluemont: Pollenators abound as the Village Montessori School cuts ribbon on its Village of Pollen butterfly garden.

Our Vision for the Snickersville Academy ◆Snickersville Academy Park. –A self-guided visitor's destination with interpretive postings. ◆A window on Bluemont's beginnings. The Academy – as an 1825 school and church –helps illuminate Bluemont's very early history.

♦A link to Bluemont's Black history. The Academy lies at the start of the Old Mountain Road leading from Bluemont to the post-Civil-War Free Black community on the mountain

♦A new space for small classes, meetings, and events. The Academy is a unique place to learn and teach.

Things We Are Grateful for: Thank You!

♦Rosemary Stanger, who sells our Friends of Bluemont's Bears Den antique note cards, along with many other items, at the Bluemont Railway Station's weekend crafts shows.

♦Bluemont's own Cub Scout Pack 961 weeded and planted for a healthier stream by the Snickersville Academy, under the guidance of Virginia Master Naturalist Annabel Hughes. May 6, 2012.

Six teenage volunteers from the Purcellville Baptist Church made Bluemont's Snickersville Academy part of their DNOW (Disciple Now) Youth Ministry Retreat, addressing labels and walking over to visit the Academy. February 25, 2012.

♦The NOVA Summer BrewFest in Leesburg June 23-24, provided us a place in the sun to talk to fairgoers about the Snickersville Academy.

♦Epling Landscaping for ongoing mowing.□