



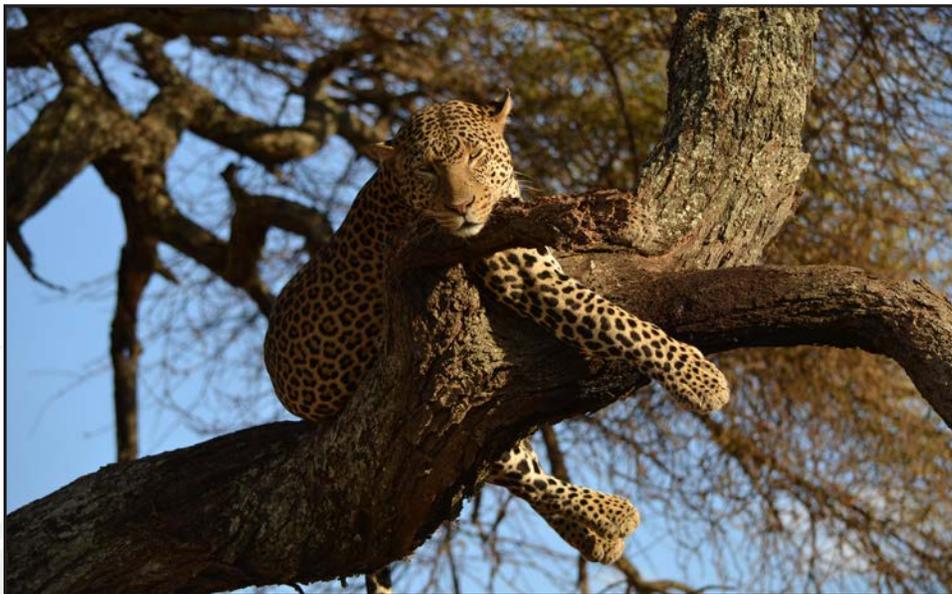
Going Global and Bringing It Home

by Doug Coleman

There is no question that travel gives the individual a unique and realistic impression of the planet. The environment is not the only world view we need to have. We also need to better understand the culture of our global neighbors and immerse ourselves in their perspective. To better understand this concept, read Tim Marshall's recent prize winning book *Prisoners of Geography*. His work is a short, readable treatise on countries and how their physical geography affected their culture, their environmental consciousness and their current status in the world. So many answers become much clearer as Marshall makes the connection between the effect of physical geography on the survival and wellbeing of the planet's inhabitants.

Reading Marshall's work might also be a relevant (albeit somewhat disjunct) preview for attending 2019's *Winter Lecture Series: Going Global and Bringing it Home*.

On January 11th The Nature Foundation's Board President Rob Prichard and his wife Lynn Fontana will share



their experiences from their recent safari to the Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti in Tanzania and the Kenyan Masai Mara through photographs and stories. Safaris are about lions and elephants and other incredible animals and endless vistas, of course. But they also offer rare opportunities to experience people and cultures practicing ancient traditions in the face of changing national and global politics, climate change, and the

universal tension between land preservation and development. Come discover how Africa is as ageless as the Olduvai Gorge and as current as solar power.

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On January 25th, Janet Ogren, artist and photographer from Virginia Beach, will share her passion for capturing the beauty of wildlife in



their natural environment with vivid images of Wild America. Janet's career began in oil painting, but was augmented

with photography after her first trip to Africa, where she vowed to capture the emotions between her subjects and their form of communication. Her work extends our involvement in conservation efforts around the world and at home. Janet is a member of the North American Nature Photography Association. Janet's award winning photographs have been showcased in Virginia and North Carolina Wildlife Magazines.

On February 8th Peggy and Dick Whitehead will recount their



adventures walking 500 miles along the El Camino Pilgrimage trail around Spain as they met local people and enjoyed the Pyrenees and the pastoral scenes of antiquity.

These individuals will give firsthand accounts and their impressions of different ecosystems, cultures, and decisions that influence life on our planet. Join us this winter for *Going Global and*

Bringing it Home: exciting firsthand accounts and impressions of different ecosystems, cultures, and decisions that influence life both around the globe and closer to home.

From the Director:

by Doug Coleman

2018 has been an interesting and productive year as The Foundation continues its valuable contributions to both community and region. We were pleased to receive the 2018 best environmental organization of the year in the regional magazine, Blue Ridge Country. Many of these awards are judged and presented by a board, but this honor was designated and voted on by the magazine's readers who visit and actually take part in the organizations' programs.

Voted
BEST
Environmental Organization
in Blue Ridge Country magazine



We continued our research work on the danger of debris avalanche along the ACP pipeline route at the Reids Gap crossing which is near the gatehouse. This work will result in better engineering if Dominion refuses to move the route in that area.

The Foundation continues to attract well known researchers with its Smithsonian and University contacts. The results of their research help us better understand and protect Wintergreen's beautiful open spaces and the surrounding Blue Ridge region. At the time of this writing several new research proposals by visiting scientists are being considered.

Our education efforts have been well received both within and outside the Wintergreen Community- in Nelson County's schools and by visits from students and teachers from across The Commonwealth. Sharing new research findings gives both teachers and students an advantage of receiving the new information first hand before publication. This ability and approach makes The Foundation's efforts unique.

A new format for our web site was completed this year. While fine tuning efforts are still in progress, there are two new great advantages. One is that our members can choose automatic renewal. This is easily reversible but allows members to never again wonder if their membership is current, if they choose this option. (I made sure that I was the first to sign up.)

Our website also can lead participants on a virtual hike along our hiking trails. For those who are partially handicapped or suffer from an injury that would prevent hiking, you may now walk Wintergreens toughest trails...virtually.

The Foundation's operation budget is sound but lean. We are essentially in no debt. But...to protect The Foundation's financial future we have embarked on a campaign to endow its programs, facilities and research. There are many ways of making a planned gift. Let us know if planned giving is a possibility for you. You have many choices to be remembered in a way that is important to you and your family. Wintergreen remains one of the continent's most unique communities. Help us protect that by becoming part of the legacy.



THE
NATURE FOUNDATION
NURTURING LOVE FOR THE LAND at Wintergreen

News from Nature Foundation Summer Interns

Ania Golos, **Environmental Studies- University of Lynchburg.**

After coming back to Wintergreen for my second summer, I was much more comfortable with the surrounding environment. This comfortability allowed me to expand on the creative side of environmental education. My first task was to create a script for a tropical themed puppet show, which the Education



University of Lynchburg intern, Ania Golos speaking to senior group of her presentation on cloud forests.

Director, Kathie Driscoll and I performed before a group of summer readers at Nelson County Public Library. The puppet show incorporated themes related to tropical rainforests and allowed children of various ages to interact with tropical animal puppets. During my summer at Wintergreen, I also put together and presented information from my five month stay in Costa Rica. My goal was to incorporate all aspects of my experience living abroad and to present the information to people living in Wintergreen as well as the city of Lynchburg. Along with the presentation, I also helped the Education Director plan and create environmental education programs for the local schools, libraries, and preschools. The Nature Foundation has a well-equipped library for the public to utilize. To make it

easier for people to find a book, I categorized the books by subject and alphabetical order and created a catalogue. Overall, my time at Wintergreen was fantastic and I am very thankful for the many interactions I've had with the people of Nelson County as well as the animals that call this area home!

Gage Carroll, **Environmental Studies- University of Lynchburg**



University of Lynchburg intern, Gage Carroll assists in timber rattlesnake removal from property.

My second year in the Nature Foundation's Internship program was a great experience. I was grateful to be asked again and was happy with my decision. Last summer, the knowledge and experience I gained and put into practice led me to realize forest management is the career field I want to pursue. When the opportunity arose to come back and work here again this summer, I figured I could continue to practice my skills I learned the previous summer, while learning lots of new things. While much of the work I did was similar, I also learned many new things. The weekly training toward the beginning of the summer, provided me with invaluable knowledge that will remain applicable as I pursue career options in related fields. One of the newer projects I did this summer was work on a video project to showcase the twenty five hiking trails that The Nature Foundation maintains. Hikers are now able to check out each trail with a "virtual reality" hike beforehand to get a better understanding of each trail. I had such a great time working the Nature Foundation once again this summer. The Nature Foundation has been a second home to me and I will always come back to visit when the chance arises.

The Nature Foundation's Plant Propagation Program is More Than a Volunteer Opportunity

by Sallie Singletary

I confess, I used to be the kind of gardener that only looked at the annuals at the nursery; lantana and begonias and ivy geranium were magnets that drew me in the spring, and when fall rolled around, out they went and pansies grew in their place. The sprinkler system used a lot of water during the summer but that was the price of having a lovely manicured yard full of color. Then I purchased a home at Wintergreen. I stopped by The Nature Foundation's Native Plant Propagation Program plant sale one day, and my gardening tactic took a different turn. I learned about the advantages of planting native plants: they are an integral part of the local ecosystem, providing sustenance for native insects and pollinators, and they require less work. They do not need constant attention – no more watering, fertilizing, trimming, then doing it all again for the next season. I decided this was a much more appealing approach to landscaping since it left more time for other activities (so many books to read, so many wineries to visit). After chatting with a few volunteers at the Native Plant sale, I wanted to know more, so I signed up to be a volunteer.

A big plus for me was that I did not need to be an expert already – they were happy to just have an extra pair of hands! An even bigger plus is the people who are the heart and soul of the Plant Propagation Program. They are welcoming, fun and funny as well as knowledgeable and intelligent. We identify native plants, collect seeds, clean them, sow them and grow them into beautiful plants – but we also have a great time. We chat about anything and everything, from our different attitudes toward groundhogs ('so cute and cuddly' vs 'wish we could take a pellet gun to them'), to who can't stand to cut back dead stalks because it may cause the plant pain, to how surprising it is to see flowers that are native here turn up in Newfoundland. It is very satisfying for me to walk around my yard or hike a trail and be able to put a name to a flower or fern. I am still learning and still fascinated with plant processes. For instance, I had no idea that ferns grow from spores that virtually explode from the plant when they are ready and if you are lucky, you can see it happen with one of our microscopes!

If you are curious about native plants, or just want an excuse to hang out with a wonderful bunch of people, check out the Native Plant Propagation Program – we would love for you to join us!



This Summer's Historical Trip to Lynchburg's Point of Honor and Poplar Forest

by Arleen Stone

"Historical" is right! Not being a Virginian, I am a bit lacking in its history. No doubt I learned more than most on this TNFW Lynchburg trip. What an eye-opener into the reality of the past and the role of our neighboring area.

It was a sunny Friday morning when a dozen "ready for whatever" participants travelled up, down, and around to Lynchburg in "Black Beauty" the new black Ford Transit van with Kathie Driscoll, TNFW Education Director at the wheel. Arriving a bit early for our tour of POINT OF HONOR, Kathie gave us a tour of Lynchburg's historic Riverside Park. Located within one of several historic districts, the park was bustling with activity—super clean, green and beautiful! It was also the location of the famed Miller-Claytor House, where Thomas Jefferson allegedly ate a tomato to prove to the owner that tomatoes were not poisonous.



Point of Honor, former home of Dr. George Cabell and family

A short drive through Daniel's Hill Historic District took us to Point of Honor, located high above the James River, adjacent to but out of sight of railroad tracks, and with views of downtown Lynchburg. The house was the Lynch family home from 1745 until 1805. In 1805, after graduating from Randolph College and medical school, Dr. George Cabell purchased the house and its 750 surrounding acres and 30 slaves. He was quite the entrepreneur as

well as physician and prospered in growing tobacco and other crops. Using slaves to maneuver bateaus on the James River, he transported, sold, and traded up and down the James to and from Richmond. Point of Honor was so-named for the duels fought in the expansive front lawn overlooking the city.

Dr. Cabell was Patrick Henry's friend and personal physician and a friend of Thomas Jefferson whose property bordered that of the Cabell's. Takes one to know one?!

The federal style home has a symmetrical front exterior with two octagonal side structures housing two-story bay windows flanking a one story porch. The house follows a T-shaped plan with three chimneys. It sits on an English basement with a rough stone foundation. The brick façade was once covered with stucco which was removed revealing a flemish bond brick pattern. A carriage house and kitchen was added later.

The front entrance boasts a large gathering hall, with a ceiling hanging- oil lamp. Refueling the enormous lamp was understood only by the Cabells! Intricately painted and wallpapered walls along with painted

Continued on next page

canvas floor cloths covering the pine flooring, replicate the original interior. Reproductions are mixed with original furnishings, dishes and accessories. Of interest in the bedrooms are rope beds and feather mattresses, several of which were placed on floors in order for the slaves to tend to the young and/or old.

Since the Cabells, Point of Honor has been sold several times as a private home. A restoration period began around 1930. Point of Honor has been open to the public since 1977 thanks to several non-profit organizations. It is well worth the trip to Lynchburg and a "must see" for history buffs!

Standing on the lawn after the tour, some of the group discussed the houses across Cabell Street and how they were "asking" for renovation if not restoration. Little did we know that the Cabell Street of homes was the feature article, "Reviving Cabell Street—one home at a time" in the July/August 2018 issue of Lynchburg Living Magazine.

Poplar Forest personal retreat of Thomas and Martha Jefferson

After enjoying lunch at The Depot Grille on Lynchburg's riverfront, we headed to nearby Poplar Forest. Located just outside Lynchburg city limits, Poplar Forest is one of two homes Thomas Jefferson designed for he and his wife Martha. A brief history lesson before a tour of the house and grounds reminded us that Jefferson was the United States' 1st Secretary of State, 2nd Vice President, and 3rd President. He "retired" in 1809 at age 65.



The Jeffersons inherited the plantation, plus or minus 3000 acres, from Martha's father in 1773. The names of 11 enslaved African-Americans were recorded as living/working on the plantation. It wasn't until 1806, and after much planning, that construction began on what is thought to be the 1st octagonal house in America--Jefferson's dream and design. The south lawn portico, complete with four pillars and beautiful views, has no steps to the south lawn--a mystery to some, but logical to Jefferson.

Touring Poplar Forest sheds a new light on TJ's creativity, his curiosity and private world. Poplar Forest was crucial to his life. He retreated to the private plantation to read, study, think, rekindle creativity and enjoy personal family time.

As a slave owner, he was not without faults. The slave community ranged from 60-100 men, women and children, peaking at planting and harvest times. Although he was known as a statesman, his intellect and talents centered upon architecture which may have contributed to his financial woes. Always wanting to change, improve, design and redesign, the retreat was a thing of beauty but unfinished at his death.

Poplar Forest was sold after Jefferson's death. It was altered, fell into disrepair and suffered a disastrous fire. The plantation was rescued in 1984 by concerned citizens forming a non-profit to preserve it for the cultural and educational benefit of the public. Architectural restoration is ongoing as is archeology on the grounds. With no knowledge of the true landscape of Poplar Forest during Jefferson's time, the north lawn entrance area in particular is a rich "hunting ground" for professional and amateur archeologists alike. Go dig!

Why Become a Member?

by Liz Fravel

When people ask me about my job, I often say that I work for my members. After 20 plus years of being with The Nature Foundation, the members make my job fun. I have an absolute blast. There are committees I work with that I count the time until we can work together again, because we have so much fun and enjoy our work. Many of the members have become like family to me. They are why we do what we do. I learned to ski on Potato Patch before I knew how to tie my shoes. I grew up skiing here. I went off to college, did the big city thing for several years and kept missing the Blue Ridge. I moved back and fell back in love with this spot that is so completely special. At the end of the day, we all love Wintergreen. We may have come to it from different directions, but our love and support of the community is equal.

I often get asked why become a member of The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen. Why should we join? I think the answer lies in the 30 miles of hiking trails we maintain, in the research studies we have going on at any given time, or our focus on the forest health of Wintergreen. In the last year we've studied the black bear population, deer herd numbers, gypsy moth counts, and now we're looking at the emerald ash borer which will greatly impact both the mountain and valley. We continue to work on stream health throughout Wintergreen. We work every day with both WPOA and the resort. When they succeed, we all succeed. And... we protect your investment. That investment is important to us.

Wintergreen was developed with the natural world integral to it. We work every day, often behind the scenes, to ensure that your view shed is protected, your forests stay healthy and that owners and guests alike are able to enjoy the natural world of Wintergreen. On a practical note, we offer a hands-on learning area for children with Robin's Nook and the exhibits in the building and we offer programs and guided hikes throughout the years. When I'm asked why you should become a member, to me there's no reason not to.

We have just unveiled a new program dedicated to rental properties. We will now extend family memberships to your rental. A Family Blazer membership covers up to 6 persons and we no longer ask that those people be dependents. Your renters will need to have a membership card. Please let us know when you join that you'd like a laminated card and we'll provide that for you to leave in your rental. As members, your guests can also attend weekend guided hikes for free (same as members) and enjoy discounts on all programs and in our Shoppe.

If you are not a member of The Nature Foundation, I encourage you to join. We have a lot of fun and we do great things. If you are a member of ours, thank you. We appreciate your membership and we don't take it lightly.



The Virtual Hiker

by Josh Palumbo

A common duty when working the front desk of the nature center is to describe trails and try to give the best advice we can to each prospective hiker. Painting an accurate picture of each trail in the mind's eye of a hiker is no easy task. One solution is to take the hiker virtually into the woods and onto the trail before they ever leave the comfort of their home. We proudly introduce Wintergreen virtual trail hikes!

After a summer of labor by a tech savvy intern plus many staff and volunteer hours, The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen's website is prepared more than ever to ready wilderness seekers for their time afield at Wintergreen. We live in an age where almost every question has an answer right at your fingertips. Why should questions such as, "is Cedar Cliffs North worth the effort?" or "what can one see on Fortunes Ridge Trail?" not be answered just as easily?

Here is your homework, should you choose to accept it. Go to our website twnf.org. Look for the link "Hiking and Walking Trails". Click the link and you will see trails organized by description such as "panoramic vistas" and "easy hikes for families". Click on any of the trails and you will see a short 1-2 minute video of a tour along the trail. From this video, we hope you can get the information you need to make the best trail chose for you or your group.

Eliminating doubt and uncertainty for every user of the Wintergreen wilderness is the goal of this project. We desire an end to the days of wondering what we mean when we say a trail is rocky or a trail has a nice view. Go to twnf.org and take a virtual hike!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://www.twnf.org/upper-shamokin-falls-trail/>. The page content includes:

- Upper Shamokin Falls Trail**
- Distance: 0.4 mile
- Blaze Color: Yellow
- Difficulty Level: MODERATE
- Key Feature: waterfall, stream, a family favorite
- A video player showing a hiker on a trail with a "Watch later" and "Share" button.
- Text: "A detailed map of all of the trails within Wintergreen maintained by the foundation is available at the front desk of Wintergreen Resort's Mountain Inn and at Trillium House. One of the most popular and beautiful hikes on the mountain. Follow the sound of falling water to the falls and be sure to stop and look around at the evergreen ferns and wildflowers. For a different return, there is Morgans Loop. Please refrain from climbing on the edges of the falls, as the rocks are slippery when wet. Don't forget your camera on this hike for the entire family. Use caution in the winter."
- A photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks in a forest.

How's the Weather?

by Josh Palumbo

2018 was a year of extremes on the weather front. I sure am glad we have a weather station on top of The Trillium House. Thanks as always to Blue Ridge Life Magazine for supporting our weather addiction!

Warmest Day of the Year: **81.9 F (Aug 29)**

Coldest Day of the Year: **-0.8 F (Jan 5)**

Warmest Month: July – **66.5 F**

Coldest Month: **January** – **31.2 F**

Average Daily Temperature: **48.4 F**

Highest Wind Gust: **38 mph (Nov 19)**

Average Wind Speed: **2.6 mph**

Rainfall Total: **84.65 inches**

Rainiest Month: September – **22.96 inches**

Average Daily Humidity – **49.2%**



Our weather website:

<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KVAWINTE1>