

Smoke Signals



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

THE MOYAONE RESERVE • LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

VOLUME LXIII

FEBRUARY 2023

NO. 2

President's Note for February 2023

Neighbors and Friends,

Greetings. I don't have much to "pontificate" on this month. I hope everyone is weathering our winter well. We really enjoy our winters here in the Moyaone, with crisp cold days spent hiking through the park — and also realizing we are not completely alone in our neighborhoods, as neighbors' houses and views of the Potomac are peeking through the thin winter forest. I don't wish to jinx us but can say I'm not disappointed by the relatively mild weather we have experienced thus far. On February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil gave us the news to expect at least six more weeks of winter this year. I'm told his predictions are valid almost forty percent of the time.

Our next big Moyaone event is the Chili Challenge, scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at the Commons. More information will be provided for this enormously successful and enjoyable event in the March issue of *Smoke Signals*.

Our Pool Manager, Will Micknick, has decided to pursue other career options and will not be returning to run the pool this summer. We are in the market for a new pool manager. Please have potential candidates contact me or our Vice President, Logan Kistler (MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com). We certainly wish Will well in his future pursuits and appreciate his dedication in managing our pool.

Dues are due at the end of this month. Thank you to all who have paid and for your participation and contributions in preserving the Moyaone Reserve.

Respectfully,
— John "JR" Rudzis
President, Moyaone Association
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

Senior Tax Credit for Property Owners in Prince George's County

—Michael Leventhal

Last June (2022), the Prince George's County Council passed CB-029-2022, a property tax credit for elderly individuals. This new County tax ordinance was signed by the County Executive and goes into effect in 2023.

The basic eligibility for the tax credit is that: 1) property owners must be over 65 years of age; 2) they have lived in the same dwelling for at least the preceding 10 years; and 3) one's home needs to be assessed by the County as being under \$500,000. The credit allowed will be 20% of the County property tax, inclusive of any Homestead credit. The credit shall be granted for a period of up to 5 years.

This tax credit for elderly property owners will be administrated by the County's Finance Department. At this time, the Finance Department is just starting to work on the application process and the application itself. It is hoped that by Spring 2023, the Department of Finance will mail out to all County residents a flyer announcing the process and the application form.

For those wanting the chapter/verse on this new ordinance, it is located in the Prince George's County Code; Subtitle 10, Finance and Taxation; Division 8, Tax Assessment, Levy and Collections; Subdivision 5O, Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals; Section 10-235-28, Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals. <https://library.municode.com/md/>

Moyaone Association Board of Directors

President — John "JR" Rudzis
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com
Vice President — Logan Kistler
MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary — Jim Wickman
MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com
Comptroller — Karen Bell
MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com
Director-at-Large — Rose Kim
MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com



Gardening, Anyone?

Located on the Moyaone Association grounds, next to the Wagner Center building, is the Moyaone Community Garden. Moyaone Association members in good standing (who have paid their annual consolidated fees) can inquire about the availability of plots. To find out more about fees and garden policies, please send an email message to: moyaonegarden@gmail.com

GACA to Meet February 22

—*Judy Allen-Leventhal*

The Greater Accokeek Civic Association's next regular membership meeting will be held Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 pm at the Accokeek Volunteer Fire Hall (16111 Livingston Road, Accokeek). The guest presenters will be from with the [Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project \(PGC LMP\)](#), a nonprofit, all-volunteer group that works with the [Maryland Lynching Memorial Project](#) and Bryan Stevenson's [Equal Justice Initiative \(EJI\)](#).

The PGC LMP mission statement reads: "to educate the public on the truths of our nation's continuing legacy of the institution of slavery and its impact on enslaved persons and their descendants, memorialize victims of racial terror lynchings in our county [Prince George's], and advance the cause of racial justice and reconciliation through mutual support and collaboration." The guest speakers will discuss the organization's work to tell the untold story of the four documented lynchings in Prince George's County, including that of Thomas Juricks of Piscataway on October 12, 1869. The PGC LMP representatives will also discuss plans for an event honoring Mr. Juricks through a community remembrance project, to feature soil collection, a home-going ceremony, and a variety of music and other creative arts.

The GACA membership meeting will also include regular reports and business, including updated Accokeek census information and information about proposed Maryland Legislative Bills concerning Route 210 speed cameras.

Moyaone May Day on April 29

Saturday, April 29 marks the second annual Moyaone May Day, to be held at the Moyaone Commons, 2311 Bryan Point Rd.

May Day is one of the four ancient Celtic cross-quarter days, making it an astronomical holiday as it falls between the March equinox and June solstice. Originating from its Celtic name, "Belthane," Beltane was a spring celebration that included dancing, singing, and special bonfires; house doors and animals would be decorated with yellow May flowers and ribbons. During this time, in various communities in Ireland, people would visit special wells and the Beltane dew was believed to bring beauty and youthfulness to those around it.

In the Middle Ages, English villages had homes with maypoles to rejoice in celebrations of May Day. Villagers would go into the woods to find maypoles to set up in towns and cities. Because maypoles came in different sizes, villages would compete with each other to see which one had the tallest one.

The Moyaone Morris Dancers will be on hand as your hosts. We have again invited other Morris groups to join us.

Tentative schedule for the Moyaone May Day:

At Dawn—Raising of the Maypole on the soccer field.

10:30 am—Processional to the Maypole followed by dancing around the Maypole, Singing, and Morris Dancing.

12:00 pm—Potluck Lunch/Wood-fired Pizza and good ale from the Moyaone Brewing Collective.

1:30 pm—Moyaone Spring Games: Tug-of-War (Adults vs. Kids); Sack and Wheelbarrow Races; Wellie Toss.

Volunteers are welcome to help with programming, set-up, and running the field games. New Morris dancers and musicians welcome! Please contact Alex Naar: alex@morrisdance.org

Landscape Cleanup Day at the Moyaone Commons — Volunteers Welcome

As part of ongoing habitat restoration and regular upkeep of the plantings around the pool, the Wagner Center, and the Commons, help would be most welcome on an ongoing basis. Please join Antonia Bookbinder, Holly Wagner, and Alex Naar this Saturday, Feb. 11, starting at 9:00 am (2311 Bryan Point Rd.).

Ongoing priorities: Get the pool plantings back in shape; clear up last bits of winter storm damage; continue to remove non-native plants; and help establish and maintain native plantings around the pool, soccer field, Wagner Community Center, and septic field. A big thank you goes to those who have helped over the past few months.



Daniel Webster Blueitt

1965–2023

A sad farewell is sent out to Daniel Webster Blueitt Jr. (pictured above with his faithful dog "Soldier Boy") of Poplar Hill Road. He passed away on January 22, 2023, a mere 57, leaving to mourn his family, neighbors, and friends. A hands-on, "I've got this!" fellow, he spent decades in the renovation-construction trade, leading American Exteriors. His solid presence and quick-grinned people-magnet self was a chief among chefs — and a trained and ready hand to help shape the spaces folks would gather in.

He was ever on time to delightfully feed the hungry, and to meet and beat a spec sheet, yet he always took the time to wave and flash his smile at all he met.

"Lemme try first, to fix it," was Big-D's way, quick to try his hand, but quicker yet to lend his hand

Leaving too soon his ably built constructs, Daniel earned full grins, honorably as an A+ shaper of solidity.

To quote many, including BBB:
Raise a glass to his Spirit, on high;
His buildings, yet not our eyes, stay dry~~



Richard Finkbeiner

1935–2023

After shaping his sylvan Apple Valley space for over half a century alongside Jeanette and their quintet of children, Richard Finkbeiner — a loving husband, father, grandfather, craftsman, teacher, and neighbor — now graces the reaches above.

From Chicago, and the halls of USDA Headquarters, Richard wore many hats: as Jeannette's beau, Dad, Granddad, surrogate Dad, woodworker, US Navy Vet, homebuilder, teacher, biker, sailor, hiker, and folkdancer.

His son Robert shares further "... Henceforward, we carry on his legacy in our minds and hearts. The key to truly keeping his legacy alive is through the recollecting and sharing of stories, as well as sharing a smattering of pictures taken throughout the years. In this way, even now, it will be like he is always with us, now and forever.

"Each of us have in turn, from an early age, been molded and shaped into responsible, caring, empathetic, middle-aged adults by him"

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Richard's memory to the Amblebrook community NEAR Program (NEAR, Inc., PO Box 4193, Gettysburg, PA 17325; nearamblebrook@gmail.com), or the Daughters of the American Revolution (dar.org).

A private Celebration of Life is scheduled in the coming weeks in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Please contact the family at rjf.celebration@gmail.com for details.



Mary Lee Phelps opens her surprise artwork at last year's artists' Valentine Exchange; gift bags for the Exchange are ready to be filled.

Art All Year Round with the Accokeek Artists' Alliance

The Accokeek Artists' Alliance (AAA) is having its third Annual Valentine Art Exchange with an all-member soiree following the Exchange. Festivities will happen this Friday, February 10, 6:00 pm, at the Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Rd.



Now's the time to follow the winding rural road to the Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Smallwood State Park, (5565 Upham Pl., Marbury, MD). You'll find AAA members' work (such as the two paintings, above right, by sisters Lona Powell and Innes Borstel) in MCAC's annual Winter Show opening this Friday. Next up in March at MCAC, you'll see the Center completely filled with seventeen AAA members' art, March 17 to April 16. A reception is on Sunday, March 19.

Actually, it'll be difficult to miss running into our art throughout the year. In April, we'll have a presence at the Accokeek Foundation (AF)/Colonial Farm "Latte with Lambs" event (see page 6). May finds us participating in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Spring Festival (see page 7). June



"Skating on Old TB Lake" by Lona Powell



"Finish Line" by Innes Borstel

will feature the AF's Fairy Trail Opening with AAA-designed and -constructed fairy dwellings. In August, our AAA exhibit opens at Harmony Hall and continues thru September. Finally, our fabulous Winter Market will be back in November at the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Cafritz Environmental Center.

If you have ever thought, "Gee, I'm not sure how to get my art seen!" then perhaps you might consider joining AAA. Or, as an art lover/supporter, you feel like you might be missing out by not being a member. There's an easy solution: please go to our website accokeekartistsalliance.com and join up.



Homegrown Music and Food at the Coffeehouse Friday, February 17

The Homegrown Coffeehouse is excited to welcome back ilyAIMY: rob Hinkal, Heather Aubrey Lloyd, Kristen Jones, 7:45–9:30 pm. Quiet the Mountain, will open the show, 7–7:30 pm.

ilyAIMY mixes genres from rock to folk to soul to bluegrass; flavors as varied as jazz and hip hop curl through the sound of Washington Area Music Association’s “Best Contemporary Folk Group.” ilyAIMY and their co-fronts Heather Aubrey Lloyd and rob Hinkal have won accolades from Kerrville Folk Festival, National Association for Campus Activities, the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance, and the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival (Most-Wanted Artist for both the band and Heather solo!). Heather has been recognized by the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and Rocky Mountain Folks Festival, and won 2019’s Bernard Ebb Songwriting Award. Most recently, both rob & Heather won Gold awards in the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest. The trio includes Kristen Jones on electric cello and harmony vocals (multiple Wammie nominee for Best Contemporary instrumentalist). www.ilyAIMY.com

Quiet the Mountain is a new acoustic/folk band based in the Baltimore area. The group's performers are singer/composer Christian Alfonso and multiple award-winning fingerstyle guitarist Jimmy Stewart. <https://www.youtube.com/@quietthemountain2100/about>

Admission: \$25. Doors open: 6 pm.

The Homegrown Coffeehouse is an all-volunteer-run venue; Lite Supper available 6–7:30 pm (soups/bread/cheese/desserts/tea/coffee). National Colonial Farm Adult Education Building, 3400 Bryan Point Road. Accokeek. Info: 240-305-0876.



Local Musicians at the Lyceum, Friday, February 11

Shenandoah Run; and Lynn Hollyfield with Keely Hollyfield, Dave Abe, Steve Wolf, and Jimmy Brink

Come hear some great music at the Lyceum (201 South Washington St.) in beautiful downtown Alexandria, VA.

Shenandoah Run is an eight-member folk ensemble from the Washington, DC area. Formed in 2011, the band performs traditional and contemporary folk music in a manner that delights a diverse mix of music lovers of all ages. SR showcases the spirited sounds of Americana, along with the occasional country or bluegrass tune, and delivers a rousing mix of music and styles. The members' vocal and instrumental savvy, coupled with a strong desire to keep folk music alive and fresh, are key to the group's success.

Advance tickets: www.ShenandoahRun.com \$25 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/where-the-heart-is-a-joint-concert-with-shenandoah-run-and-lynn-hollyfield-tickets-513580451957>

Lynn Hollyfield will be joined by daughter **Keely Hollyfield**, **Dave Abe** (fiddle/mandolins), **Steve Wolf** (bass), and **Jimmy Brink** (percussion).

Admission at the door: \$30.



ANNUAL MOYAONE CHILI CHALLENGE

Saturday, March 25

Chefs of the Moyaone! It's time to create some wonderfully delicious pots of chili. There will be prizes for the best plant-based chili and for the best chili with meat. Or just come and eat. The Moyaone brewers are busy making a variety of beers to complement the chili. Top your chili with provided fixings.

Mark your calendars for March 25 (rain date March 26). Contest entry details will be in the March issue of *Smoke Signals*.



Piscataway Park’s Not-So-New EDRR Species

In the world of Invasive Plant Management, new invasive species are on the most wanted list, and the process of Early Detection and Rapid Response is how to prevent them from being widely established.

During the winter while these plants are dormant, Accokeek’s Natural Resources team has been inventorying and mapping them for future removal or treatment during this year’s upcoming active management season. AF would love to have our neighbors involved in this effort, and some of you already are! We have management sessions every Friday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. To sign up, visit bit.ly/InvasiveManagementAF.

According to the US Department of the Interior, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is a “key tenet of invasive species management, where ‘detection’ is the process of observing and documenting an invasive species, and ‘response’ is the process of reacting to the detection once the organism has been authoritatively identified and response options have been assessed.”

There are currently over 50 known EDRR plant and animal species in the DMV. Under the guidance of the National Capital Region’s Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (NCR-PRISM), Accokeek’s Natural Resources team has been able to identify 4 of those EDRR species here in Piscataway Park: Leatherleaf Mahonia (*Berberis bealei*), Crowdipper (*Pinellia ternata*), Trifoliolate Orange (*Citrus trifoliata*), and Castor Aralia (*Kalopanax septemlobus*).

If you want to help, but prefer to explore the park, the Natural Resources team could use some help with winter GPS inventorying of Leatherleaf Mahonia, Trifoliolate Orange, English Ivy, Castor Aralia, and other plants unusual for this area. To sign up, send an email stating so to volunteers@accokeek.org.

Plants do not recognize human boundaries and can spread from yard to yard. We encourage you to walk your property and see if you recognize some of these plants. Hand-pull or dig up seedlings, ensuring the roots are completely removed. Mature plants can be removed using a weed wrench or similar tool. If a plant is too large to be removed, it may be cut and systemic herbicide may be applied to the cut surface. If you prefer to keep the plants, or are restricted from removing them, carefully cut, bag, and throw away fruits in the trash to prevent spread by birds.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact the AF Natural Resources team at rharley@accokeek.org.



Lattes with Lambs

Save the Date! Frolic down to AF on April 15 from 11 am to 3 pm for our annual “Lattes with Lambs” barnyard festival. Sir Nigel, the Hog Island sheep, is opening his own art gallery and is searching for talented artists to feature! AF is seeking Piscataway Park and Heritage Breed inspired art submissions to be displayed during this year’s event. Submit your information at bit.ly/AF-artist-showcase.

This artist showcase will be a celebration of the park and the animals through the arts, and submissions will be part of this special one-day juried exhibition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Casey Harlow at charlow@accokeek.org or MaryAlice Bonomo at mbonomo@accokeek.org.

The Cost of Voicing the Past: The Trauma of Historical Interpretation

Join us on Thursday, February 16, 10:30 am–1:30 pm, for a virtual workshop that addresses the trauma associated with telling the stories of the past and how to work through those traumas. The facilitator, Shemika Berry, is a first-person historical performer with 19 years of experience and a degree in psychology from Louisiana Tech University. She is the Outreach Specialist at the Accokeek Foundation and has portrayed an 18th-century enslaved woman named Cate Sharper for the last eight years, in addition to educating the public on the importance of honoring the ancestors despite the horrible circumstances they were placed in. Register at bit.ly/cost-of-voicing-the-past.

— The Accokeek Foundation is located at 3400 Bryan Point Road. Accokeek.org

Alice Ferguson Foundation Welcomes Spring, Summer Programs



OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS WITH *Prince George's County*



Overnight Programs Return

Fifth graders from Prince George's County Public Schools have returned to Hard Bargain Farm for overnight experiences for the time since early 2020. During their two-day, one-night adventure, students expand their knowledge of science concepts they're learning in their classrooms and build their connection to the environment. Check out the fun we had with our first week visits!

Join us for Fun on the Farm

Fun on the Farm is back for Spring 2023! Family fun and new adventures in the great outdoors is the perfect Saturday afternoon activity for all ages.

March 11 [Unfor-goat-able Adventures](#)

April 1 [Legen-dairy Discoveries](#)

June 10 ["Egg"-citement](#)

Tickets: \$15 per person. Kids free under age of 2.

Spring Fest is May 13

Celebrate spring at Hard Bargain Farm! Enjoy your Saturday in the great outdoors on our beautiful environmental campus.



Learn about our environmental programs, stop and smell the flowers at our Native Plant Sale, meet our barnyard friends, and find some items you can upcycle at our Reuse and Repurpose Sale. Listen to sweet tunes from local musicians, enjoy a picnic with food from our local food trucks, and check out our

community vendors and partners. A blooming good time awaits!

Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/child (ages 5+)

[Buy Tickets Here!](#)

Do you own a small business? Are you a local artist or crafter? Have any specialty foods you sell? Have something else cool to share? If you answered yes to any of these

questions, apply to be a vendor at our Spring Fest.

Vendor Fee: \$25 (Includes a 10' x 10' booth space and two wristbands). [Fill out the application here!](#)

Ways to Get Involved

• Volunteer With Us — The Alice Ferguson Foundation is looking for volunteers to lend a hand at upcoming events and around the property. We have a variety of opportunities for all ages and interests. We look forward to working with you! [Check out our volunteer opportunities and sign up here.](#)

• Board of Directors — Are you interested in joining a cohort of dedicated professionals, learning more about how we work, and supporting the mission of the Alice Ferguson Foundation? Or know someone who is? Alice Ferguson Foundation is holding an open call for board nominations through October. Board terms are two years following the calendar year. Please send nominations to tcullen@fergusonfoundation.org with the subject line BOARD NOMINATION.

• Pinot on the Potomac Host Committee — We are looking for host committee members to help sell tickets to our annual Pinot on the Potomac gala, find us great silent auction items, and connect us to some sponsor prospects. This year's Pinot on the Potomac event will be held September 9, 2023 from 5 to 8 pm. If you think you would be a fantastic fit, apply now! [Fill out an application here.](#)

NOW OPEN: Summer Camp Registration

This July we're offering FOUR adventurous one-week summer camps! Led by our experienced educators, kids will explore the woods, wetlands, and Potomac riverbank, with activities such as dip netting, finding tadpoles, and watching the eagles! Our unique property allows kids to experience life in the great outdoors — get to know our lovable goats, look for the coolest critters on a nature hike, and dig in the garden. Children will spend every day outside exploring nature on our beautiful environmental campus.

Session 1: July 10–14

Eco Explorers (for ages 6–11)

Session 2: July 17–21

Nature Nuts (for ages 4–11)

Session 3: July 24–28

Wetland Wanderers (for ages 6–11)

Session 4: July 3–August 4

Watershed Warriors (for ages 8–13)

Campers must turn the minimum age of the camp session by July 1, 2023.

Registration Fees

• Weeks 1–3: \$325/camper per week

• Week 4: \$375/camper (includes a day of kayaking and an overnight campout)

[Register for Summer Adventure Camp Here](#)

— Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Road
fergusonfoundation.org