



Waterford Foundation Newsletter

Volume 4, No. 2

Summer 2005

The Foundation Welcomes New Executive Director



After a long and intensive search, the Foundation named Mary Yakush its new Executive Director

in May. Ms Yakush comes to the Foundation with many years of experience in museum programs and scholarly publishing. In 1983 she joined the National Gallery of Art, Washington, where she developed a series on the collection of rare books on architecture and managed the Systematic Catalogue of the Collections, as well as the catalogue of the Gallery's collection of more than 1,600 vintage photographs by Alfred Stieglitz. She holds an M. A. in Art History from the State University of New York at Binghamton. A longtime member of the Waterford Foundation and active in its Education Committee since 2002, Ms Yakush spearheaded the very well received 2004 Fair exhibit on Quaker textiles.

Since 1985 she and her husband, Wally Grotophorst, have owned a former miller's house and property on the South Fork of Catoctin Creek, where they live with their two daughters, Zoe and Annie, and two Corgis. 🐾

Country Auction Benefits Foundation

On Sunday, May 22, at the Old School, the Waterford Foundation hosted a Country Auction of Antiques, Crafts and Art. The auction, undertaken to help underwrite the ongoing costs of the preservation effort associated with the 2003 purchase of the Phillips Farm, netted approximately \$50,000.00 toward that goal.

The auction took place under clear skies on a perfect spring day, and was the "center ring" of a busy Waterford weekend. It followed the first ever Waterford Foundation 10K race, which started at 10am from the Old Mill on Saturday morning. (See separate story on page 3.)

Nearly 150 guests came to the Saturday evening preview party, held under a big white tent at the Old School. Stunning decorations by volunteer Kim Reulein set a theme of country elegance, which, in turn, set off the approximately 375 wonderful pieces on display for viewing before the Sunday auction.

The highlight of the evening was a talk by Marybeth Keene, an appraiser on the PBS program, *Antiques Roadshow*, and a noted expert on antique textiles, 18th and 19th century furniture, and folk art. She spoke eloquently about beautiful and rare antique furnishings and accessories and, together with a splendid array of items, whetted everyone's appetite for some competitive bidding at the auction the next day. The Foundation is most grateful to have enjoyed the benefit of Ms. Keene's knowledge and gracious participation in this event.



The Auction Committee credits much of the success of the auction to Bud Tressler, the wonderful auctioneer from Tressler's Auction Service in Frederick, MD. Bud gave 5 full days of his time to the Waterford Foundation, coaching, advising, and encouraging as the auction was being planned. Bud then played the

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Waterford Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 142
Waterford, VA 20197
540.882.3018
Fax: 540.882.3921
www.WaterfordVa.org

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News from the Board Room

- ◆ The Waterford Foundation has received the Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association's 2004 Judy Patterson Tourism Award in recognition of service to the Loudoun County tourism industry.
- ◆ A walking tour guide for visitors of the Phillips Farm is under development by Meghan Cantrall. It will incorporate material already gathered for the 2003 Fair educational exhibit, along with information on the flora and fauna of the area, provided by Mimi Westervelt. We also hope to include archeological information. John Souders has volunteered to create a temporary path that will serve visitors until a more permanent walk can be laid.
- ◆ Renovation of the auditorium in the Old School continues, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. The kitchen is now finished and fully functional. Next steps include painting and the installation of the new stage curtains.
- ◆ In June, Waterford Foundation board members and staff met with senior representatives from Winchester Homes to gain a better understanding of Winchester Homes' new Stonebrook Village development on Loyalty Road, on property formerly part of Stonegate Farm, and to present information about the Waterford Foundation, easements and historic district overlays. Also discussed were plantings to reduce the visual impact of the development, "dark sky" lighting, sewage disposal, availability of water, and appropriate plant materials. Because Winchester Homes' parent company is Weyerhaeuser, they sponsor tree-planting programs, and offered to join with the Foundation and the Waterford Citizens' Association in a street planting program and/or buffer planting on the Phillips Farm along the Catoctin Creek. Following the discussions, the guests were given a tour of the village.
- ◆ The Properties Planning & Management Committee is focusing attention on installing fire alarms and sprinklers in Foundation buildings, as well as upgrading the security of Foundation structures.
- ◆ Work has begun to upgrade the upper floor of the Chair Factory, including electrical and HVAC duct work. We are now in the process of seeking private and public funding to cover the costs of refurbishing the rest of the space and for purchasing appropriate furnishings and equipment necessary to house the collection. The space has been designated as the future home of the Foundation's archives and historical collections.

Come to a Board Meeting

Did you know that as a member you may attend meetings of the Waterford Foundation's Board of Directors? The board meets on the third Tuesday of every month in the Old School, beginning at 7pm. Members may not attend Executive Sessions of the board, but these are few and far between.

So please join us when time permits!

Waterford Takes First 10K Run in Stride

Waterford's first ever 10K Run went off without a hitch on the picture perfect morning of May 22. Forty-two runners toed the line and took off through the village and into the surrounding countryside, along a route carefully selected by Waterford resident John White. The 6.2-mile course began and ended at the Mill, seriously testing the mettle of the participants, as the first 2.5 miles were all uphill. The runners were undaunted, however, and valiantly stayed the course.

Overall Winner and course record setter was Waterford Heights resident Paul Okerburg, with a scorching time of 38 minutes plus a few seconds. Winner of the *Women Under 55* award was also a local resident, Sharon Felzer. Carnell Bowman won in the *Men Over 55* category, and in the *Women Over 55*, Pam Diamond prevailed. The *High School Cup* was won by Lou-



doun Valley High School, with the winning team of Elizabeth Nesbit (1st High School Finisher), Eric Rothschild, Edward Chamberlin, and Jack Devine.

In addition, children whose parents were participating in the 10k Run joined in an historic scavenger hunt at the Bond Street Meadow.

According to all participants the event was a "runaway" success. No one experienced any injuries, but all did feel a considerably elevated sense of achievement.

Madisonbelle of Leesburg, to whom we are sincerely grateful, generously sponsored all of the event awards. *Madisonbelle* also provided special "goody" bags for the categories of First Place: Women Overall and First Place: Women Over Fifty-five. Making this an annual May event is under serious consideration—we'll keep you posted! 🌱

Contributed by John M. White

Waterford's Early Library Collection Returns Home

In March, the Foundation received a sizeable and important collection of books from the Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company. Many of the books had once been part of Waterford's lending library: the "Franklin Library of Waterford". The collection consists primarily of 19th century works, with titles ranging from *The Philosophy of Storms to Disease Prevailing Among Swine and Other Domestic Animals to Obituary Addresses on the Occasion of the Death of the Hon. Henry Clay*, and provides a fascinating insight into the reading habits of early Waterfordians. Included were many books from its own early collection, for which we are most grateful. The books are

currently being inventoried and a detailed listing will be available later this year.

We are deeply grateful to the Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company and its president, Chris Shipe, for housing the books for so many years, and also for the donation of numerous volumes that belonged to the insurance company itself, but which have particular relevance to the Waterford area's agricultural history. The books will eventually be housed in the new home of the Foundation archives, the Chair Factory, once the planned renovations have been completed. 🌱

Become a Volunteer!

The Waterford Foundation depends heavily on volunteers to accomplish many of its activities. From serving as docents at the Second Street School or as house docents during the Fair, to writing news releases, to serving on Foundation committees, to assisting with a variety of projects at our headquarters, we need your help. If you're interested in working with other dedicated volunteers for the Foundation, please contact Mary Yakush or Margaret Good at 540.882.3018. We guarantee you will enjoy the experience!

(Auction, cont.)



starring role at the Live Auction, coaxing the best outcome possible for the Foundation.

The effort necessary to present the preview party, the live auction and a notable silent auction, was enormous. A core group of volunteers worked nearly full time for months and into the night for days and

weeks. Evelyn Godfrey was the behind-the-scenes leader who provided heroic support to Fran Holmbraker, the Foundation's Fair Chairman, who managed to find time to help coordinate the event while also preparing for the 2005 Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit, a year-round task. Sherry Satin, who chaired the Acquisitions Committee, was ably and energetically supported by committee members Marilyn Gentry, Patricia Shoaf, Susan Sutter, and Bob Thompson, who encouraged Foundation members to donate quality antiques and persuaded local artists to contribute original works. Catherine DesPrez, a newcomer to Waterford, coordinated a very successful silent auction. John and Tamara White contributed time and effort to stuffing and mailing the invitations for all the events. Ellen Banker, graphics artist of Bark and Banker, generously donated her talents to create the design theme used on the printed materials for the 10k race, the preview, and the auction. Beth Erickson, with patience and tenacity, made sure that the events were well publicized in newspapers, publications and on the radio. The Food Committee, led by Margaret Good, created attractive and tasty bag lunches, which further heightened the country ambiance.

The largest group to be thanked for making this event so successful, however, must be our donors of the quality antiques, handicrafts and other items that made this a most memorable and successful auction. Had you not given so generously of your valued and valuable pieces, the auction could not have achieved the great success that it did. Your extraordinarily generous show of support played a major role in reducing the ongoing costs associated with the acquisition of the Phillips Farm in 2003.

Among our donors to be praised are the more than 100 craftspeople from the Waterford Fair, who

contributed valuable handmade pieces. One notable highlight of the day's sale was a pottery bowl, made especially for the auction by Winton Eugene, of Cowpens, South Carolina, which fetched \$1300.00. The bowl was decorated with an original sketch of the Second Street School and, with Mr. Eugene's specialty, silhouettes in relief, of several students and 2 teachers from nineteenth century classes. The images were reproduced from early photographs in the Foundation's archives.

Last, but not least, the Waterford Foundation and its Auction Committee thank all who came to the auction and bid generously, often, and with great spirit. Many people not only contributed items, but also participated in the myriad of tasks associated with putting on the auction—and then continued to show support for the Foundation by bidding. We thank you all! 🍷

Contributed by Fran Holmbraker





From left to right: Jim Behan, Waterford Foundation president; Leslie Grayson, Virginia Outdoors Foundation; O. Leland Mahan, Waterford Foundation attorney; Bruce Cleveland, Waterford Foundation treasurer

Conservation Easement For Phillips Farm Signed

On Sunday, May 22, \$1.4 million in grant funds were released when Lesley Grayson, representing the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and James Behan, president of the Waterford Foundation, signed a document that placed the 144-acre Phillips Farm under permanent conservation easement. The signing took place in a public ceremony at Waterford's Old School, purchased by the Foundation in 1966. The easement will protect the land's agricultural viability and water quality, and preserve the integrity of the Waterford National

Historic Landmark, notable for its eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings and its pristine, pastoral setting.

When the Phillips Farm was threatened by residential development in 2003, the Foundation immediately launched a "Save the Landmark" awareness and fundraising campaign, and purchased the Phillips Farm in December 2003. The \$1.4 million eliminates the lion's share of loans taken out by the Foundation in order to meet the purchasing deadline. Several federal and state agencies gave

their support, including the US Department of Agriculture, which authorized the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to provide \$800,000 for the easement; the Virginia Board of Historic Resources; and the Virginia Resources Authority, which, with the approval of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, provided the financing. Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board allocated \$600,000 from the Federal Highway Administration Enhancement Transportation Program for the acquisition of the property. The support and guidance of the National Trust for Historic Preservation was critical throughout the Foundation's campaign, which was led by preservationist and Waterford resident Cate Magennis Wyatt. Fundraising events over the weekend of May 21 and 22, which included a 10K Run and Silent and Live auctions of art, antiques, and crafts, grossed more than \$67,000. Less than \$150,000 remains to be raised in connection with the Phillips Farm purchase. 🌳

Seriously Seeking Second Street School Docents

The Foundation is looking for several new apprentice docents to fill the gaps left by those who, after many years of service, will be retiring from the program. Currently, there are just six docents, ably led by Kathie Ratcliffe; we need at least as many new volunteers to step forward and become teachers for a day at the Second Street School (SSS). The program, active for some twenty years, has been hugely popular with area schools, which send 4th grade classes to Waterford to assume the roles of 19th century students for a day.

A fall training session, with new docents observing and auditing several of the SSS classes, and then participating in a short training class taught by current or prior docents, is planned. The new recruits would then be ready to teach in the spring session of 2006. A similar program is planned for next spring; with new "graduates" of that training assuming their roles as docents for the fall, 2006 session.

If you are interested in participating in this very worthy program, please contact Kathie Ratcliffe at 540.882.3348. 🌳



The Spring 2005 Second Street School docents are, seated from left to right: Bronwen Souders, Kathie Ratcliffe (SSS Coordinator), and Debbie Strange. Standing: left to right are: Elsa Anders and Evelyn Godfrey. Not shown: Anita Oshiro.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

More than 100 members attended the Foundation's 2004 Annual Meeting on April 19th, held once again in the auditorium of the Old School. Four members were elected to the Board of Directors: Mark Beisler, Richard Biby, Marilyn Gentry, and Kathleen Hughes, as Michelle Dunne, Patricia Shoaf, Robbie Smith and John Souders ended their terms.

For her year of dedicated and tireless work as Acting Executive Director, the Board presented Margaret Good with a painting of her house by Antonia Walker. Ms Good will continue her service to the Foundation as part-time Assistant Executive Director.

Bruce Cleveland, outgoing President, introduced the Foundation's new Executive Director, Mary Yakush. (See separate story on page 1.)

Jan Kitselman, a Lifetime Member and Easement Donor, received the Foundation's highest honor: its Lifetime Achievement Award, for her many outstanding contributions to the Waterford Foundation over many years and as a strong voice for preservation of the Waterford National Landmark.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Ms Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Ms Kilpatrick spoke on the present threats to easements



Jan Kitselman, a Lifetime Member and Easement Donor, with Bruce Cleveland

as a preservation tool as Congress looks at charities and their possible abuse of their non-profit status.

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Help Record Yesterday's Waterford for Tomorrow

The Foundation's historical collection contains many older photographs of Waterford's early houses. Donated by past and present residents, these photographs provide valuable information about the structure, style and condition of buildings long gone and also of those still standing. We often receive requests for copies of photographs and other documentation from owners interested in learning more about the history of their house.

Whenever significant repairs, restorations or structural changes are made to a house, its owners have, for a short time, a window into what may have been hidden for a hundred years or more. Sometimes we discover artifacts, at other times we uncover evidence of how a building was erected: the materials used, the type of construction, the way in which an addition was made. Documenting such infor-

mation is important, and we are asking for your help by providing the Foundation with photographs and information of "before and after" work you undertake on your early house and/or outbuildings, and what that work revealed.

For example, during the summer of 2004, it became necessary to replace the siding of a house that had been in place since it was built in 1861. For a brief period, the owners were able to examine the original framing of their 1861 dwelling and photograph it, before it was covered with new siding that will likely stay in place for at least another 100 years. The photograph has been donated to the Waterford Foundation for inclusion in an existing file about the house for future owners, researchers and others interested in early structures.

Please share any information, pictorial or otherwise, of your

historic house with us, inside as well as outside, so that we may add it to any data already on file about your property. For further information about how to proceed, email



Balloon framing used in an 1861 Waterford house

(Annual Meeting, cont.)

Donors of easements on historic properties and open spaces receive tax benefits for these charitable gifts that provide public conservation benefits. The tax law giving donors tax deductions for these easements was enacted 25 years ago and that is what is being scrutinized, in part because of concerns highlighted in the press recently. Changes suggested by the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) could severely reduce the attractiveness of these easements to donors. Ms. Kilpatrick asked for assistance from the Foundation and its membership to help persuade the JCT about the benefits of easements for the protection of America's natural heritage. The suggested changes to IRS regulations governing the tax benefits easement donors receive would essentially bring the program to a halt. She noted that a better ap-



Ms. Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

proach to the problem would be to find solutions that would prohibit abuse. Land Trusts themselves are already looking at solutions that would not undermine the incentives for easements donations.

For information on to whom to write, and for sample letters, please contact the Foundation. 📧

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Haden Smith
(1947-2005)

On May 6, 2005, the Waterford Foundation lost one of its former presidents. Elizabeth Haden Smith was a graduate of Belfield, a member of the Garden Club of Virginia, and was involved in the Waterford Foundation as President of the Board of Directors from 1986-1987, as Vice President from 1984-1985, and as a Director from 1982-1983. For many years, she lived in the William James House next to the Corner Store. Ms Smith was a well-loved cook in Waterford, making the "best cookies anyone ever tasted!" She was a most compassionate person and will be sorely missed by all. The family has asked that donations be made in memory of Ms Smith to the Waterford Foundation.



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Sign up for Our New E-Mail Service

In order to bring time-sensitive Foundation information to you more quickly, we are launching an experimental electronic "infomail" service for our members later this summer. If you are interested in signing up for the new service, please send us your email address, using the form below. Alternatively, you may send us an email at info@waterfordva.org, using the following language: "I, [insert name] hereby authorize the Waterford Foundation to add my email address to its member database for the purpose of providing information about events associated with the Foundation. My email address is:[insert email address.]"

Under no circumstances will the Foundation divulge your email address to any other individual or organization for any purpose. Your email will only be used to announce special Foundation-related events and other information of interest to our members. It is not intended to replace the *Waterford Foundation Newsletter*. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Worcester at the Foundation's office by phone: 540.882.3018, or by e-mail: jworcester@waterfordva.org.

Signature

Email Address (please print)

Name (please print)

Upcoming Events

2005 Waterford Foundation Fall Concert Series

Sunday, October 30, 2005 at 4pm

Internationally celebrated pianist Myriam Avalos Teie will perform a program displaying the full range of the new piano, from the most tender and melodious to the most brilliant and percussive. Music by Schubert, Chopin, and Ginastera.

Sunday, November 20, 2005 at 4pm

The Washington Symphonic Brass, Milton Stevens, Music Director, will perform a varied repertoire from five centuries, including music to herald the holiday season.

Special guest will be Bill Neil, organist for the National Symphony Orchestra. Music by Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Purcell, Bach, Handel, as well as traditional music for the season.

For further information, or to purchase tickets, please contact the Foundation by email: info@waterfordva.org, or by telephone: 540.882.3018.

George Bentley Lecture Series

This coming November Tom Mathews, author of the widely acclaimed book *Our Father's War: Growing Up in the Shadow of the Greatest Generation* will be our

guest lecturer. Tom is the son of longtime Waterford resident Tom Mathews.

Geraldine Brooks, celebrated author of the novel *Year of Wonders* and the nonfiction works *Nine Parts of Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*, has agreed to be our Spring 2006 speaker. She will discuss her latest book, *March*, which has been widely praised.

The George Bentley Lecture Series is free and open to the public.

Weather permitting, free guided walking tours of the village will leave at 2pm from the Old School prior to each concert and lecture.



Waterford Foundation
P.O. Box 142
Waterford, VA 20197

Mark Your Calendar

The annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit will take place October 7th, 8th, and 9th this year. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to renew your 2005 membership, which includes free admission to "the Fair."

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