



## CALENDAR

### 25 JANUARY

Old School Capital Campaign kickoff. 3 p.m., Old School Classroom Building, 40222 Fairfax Street, Waterford.

### 15 MARCH

Waterford Concert Series:  
Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists,  
Washington Opera. 4 p.m., Raspberry Plain, Leesburg.

### Birders site many species at farm

On Sunday December 28, eight devoted birders met at 7 a.m. on the Phillips Farm to participate in the National Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Begun in 1879, the count is held all over the nation for the purpose of adding to our knowledge of the dynamic nature of bird populations.

A total of 29 species were observed, including a barred owl, ruby-crowned kinglet, Eastern bluebird, belted kingfisher, and cedar waxwing. The count was organized by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the Waterford Foundation's partner in responsible stewardship of the Phillips Farm.

Those interested in more birding opportunities can visit the Conservancy's website at [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).

### Concert series mailing sent

On Tuesday members of the Concert Committee assembled at the Corner Store (see photo below) and mailed the 2009 Concert Series brochure. Series subscribers (for \$100) receive tickets at a 20% discount for the five-concert series, as well as an invitation to a reception with performers.

Children under 12 are admitted free.

Visit the [Concert Series page](#) on the Foundation's website for a listing of performers and dates.

The first concert of rising opera singers from the

## Happy 2009!

Dear Friends of Waterford:

It is my pleasure to tell you that Monday night the county's Board of Supervisors unanimously approved our plans for rebuilding the Waterford Old School auditorium.

Thank you to the county staff and public officials who made this possible and to Mike Banzhaf of Reed Smith, LP, for providing the Foundation, pro bono, the professional services of Annie Goode to serve as our representative throughout the special exception process. Her contributions have been invaluable in shepherding our application through the multiple tiers of the regulatory process!

Now we are ready to "Raise the Roof" of the new auditorium and officially launch our fundraising campaign. Already generous donors have given \$400,000 (including the Cabell Foundation matching grant)--so we are one-quarter of the way to the \$1.6 million we need to build it.

The Foundation's Board is committed to rebuilding the Old School auditorium, despite the bad economy; but we are being realistic and plan to raise at least \$800,000 in new funds this year before we begin construction.

We invite you to join us in launching the fundraising efforts with a celebration of what has been completed--the renovation of the Old School classroom building--at 3 p.m. Sunday, January 25. Come see the beautiful interior of the Old School, enjoy refreshments, music, and the joy of seeing the Old School live again!

I look forward to seeing you all there!



*Kathleen Hughes*

President

## Work at Old Mill to commence

Cochran's Stone Masonry will be beginning work at the Old Mill shortly, to provide outside access to the basement of the building (there is none at present). The work will involve building a stairway and constructing a door at the rear of the structure, behind the stone patio.

## Loudoun Ranger grave rededicated



Last November 15 Waterford residents attended a rededication of the stone memorial to Lieutenant Luther W. Slater. Slater was a founding member of the Loudoun Rangers, formed in 1862 by disaffected Virginians who fought for the Union during the Civil

War. Composed of citizens of German, Quaker, or Scots-Irish descent recruited from the Waterford and Lovettsville areas, the Rangers served as scouts for Federal forces.

Slater served under Captain Samuel Means, a Waterford miller who had been forced to flee into

Maryland in July of 1861 because of his pro-Union sympathies. Means's property was confiscated by the Confederates. In 1862 Means accepted a commission as a Union Army captain, with authority to raise a company of cavalry-which became the Loudoun Rangers. (See more about Samuel Means house in Waterford [here](#).)

As scouts the Rangers fought few engagements and none of a decisive nature. Perhaps their sharpest encounter happened in and around the old Baptist Church at Waterford in August 1862. Lieutenant Slater was badly wounded during that skirmish, but survived to serve for 42 years in the federal government, administering pension benefits for veterans, their widows and children. For more about the skirmish at the church, where the fight really was brother against brother, click [here](#).

## 74 more acres placed under easement at village edge

The remaining 74-acre section of the original Phillips Farm parcel was placed under conservation easement by its owner, further protecting the viewshed and character of the National Historic Landmark District of Waterford. On December 16, the easement was recorded in Loudoun County.

The easement provides for protection of historic field patterns and hedgerows, mature trees and forests, and a 100-foot riparian buffer along both sides of Catoctin Creek. The parcel can be divided into three lots, and protects existing historic structures.

The Foundation thanks the Land Trust of Virginia for its substantial work to accomplish this task. We also thank David Dobson, Historic Fields, LLC, and his attorney David Moyes, for recognizing the historical significance of this property and ensuring its protection for future generations.

After the Foundation purchased the 144-acre Phillips Farm in 2003, protecting the remaining ridgeline of the 74 acres was deemed critical to the protection of our designation as a National Historic Landmark District.

This is truly an extraordinary gift.

Slater is buried in the Union Cemetery in Lovettsville.



The rededication ceremony at Union Cemetery. [Photo courtesy of Ann Belland, current owner of the Samuel Means house in Waterford]



**The parcel (outlined in red here) substantially adds to the eased land around Waterford village.**

### Phillips Farm trail project advances

This spring, as part of the educational outreach on the historic Phillips Farm, an interpretive trail on the Phillips Farm will open, and visitors will walk the marked trail to learn of the history of this property and enjoy the natural beauty of the farm.

The Phillips Farm Committee sought a design for the trail markers that would have minimal impact on the property, yet provide the important educational history of the farm. They then sought and gained approvals for the design from the easement holder (Virginia Outdoors Foundation) and the Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee.

In the photo below, in the basement of the John Wesley Community Church, committee member Rob Hale paints the numbers he hand-carved in the posts that will be set along the trail, under the watchful eyes of son Andrew. A brochure is in preparation that will detail the natural and cultural history on the property, with the numbered posts corresponding to points of interest.

The committee will set the posts in time for Earth Day, April 19.

This project was completed thanks to a generous grant from the Peter M. Howard Memorial Fund through the Piedmont Community Foundation and the volunteer efforts of Rob Hale, John Souders, and Committee Chair Mimi Westervelt.

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[info@waterfordfoundation.org](mailto:info@waterfordfoundation.org)

## Century-old oak on farm receives a free trim

On December 15, Bartlett Tree Experts of Marshall, Virginia, spent the day cleaning up "Old John," the huge, elderly white oak near the dam on the Phillips Farm. It was long overdue for the trimming out old deadwood and removing a large branch that partially broke off recently. This branch threatened the health of the tree, and required immediate removal. Skip McDonough of Bartlett counted 107 rings on the trimmed branch, meaning the tree may be older than we have thought. The Virginia Department of Forestry is trying to assess the age for us.



Each year, Bartlett Tree Experts generously donates time and expertise to a local nonprofit. This year, the Waterford Foundation was the fortunate recipient of this gift, thanks to the efforts of Ben Rose, an

arborist with Bartlett's. Ross Pontier was the official climber who went high into the limbs of the tree to remove dead and damaged wood.

We are very grateful to Bartlett's Tree Experts for helping us with stewardship of the Phillips Farm. --Margaret Good



**Waterford**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

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P.O. Box 142 Waterford, VA 20197 540-882-3018

[www.WaterfordFoundation.org](http://www.WaterfordFoundation.org)

