

OCTOBER 2003

Catoctin Mountain Happenings At ThorpeWood



Calendar Items:

Community Dinners:

Sunday, November 2
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Road

Saturday,
October 25

Third Thursday at ThorpeWood

Thursday, October 16th
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bats, Bats and More Bats!

Friday, October 24
6:00 p.m.

Growing Native Seed Collection (rescheduled)

Thursday, October 16th
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

The American Chestnut



We are again pleased to invite you, your family and friends to our November Community Dinner, to be held on Sunday, November 2nd beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Our guests for this dinner will be Doug Boucher, Professor of Biology at Hood College; Brad Yohe, Supervisor of the Science Department for Carroll County Schools and additional teachers and associates of both Doug and Brad. The American chestnut and it's future here in Maryland will be the topic of discussion. Below is a bit of information provided by Professor Boucher, that we hope will entice you to join us on the 2nd.

"The American chestnut was formerly the dominant tree of the Catoctins, but it has been severely affected by the chestnut blight, an invasive disease introduced from the Old World in the early 1900s. One of the most promising approaches to combating the disease is backcross breeding, a technique that involves crossing American chestnuts with blight-resistant Chinese chestnuts and then "back"-crossing them for several generations with American chestnuts.

"This program was started by the American Chestnut Foundation in the early 1980s, and ThorpeWood is their chief research site in the state of Maryland. It is expected to result in totally resistant, true-breeding American chestnuts which can be used to restore the species to its former prominence, starting in about 5 years. A Maryland chapter of the foundation has recently been organized, and we welcome new participants in all our meetings and activities."

Growing Native at ThorpeWood

Due to inclement weather on October 4th, we postponed our seed collection to **Thursday afternoon, October 16th**. Seed collection will follow our Third Thursday at ThorpeWood program and begin at **2:00 p.m.** Frederick County Schools are closed and we hope to involve many of those kids who may otherwise be at home!

This is the third year that we have participated in this event, sponsored by The Potomac Conservancy. Over 400 pounds of seeds have been dropped off since October 4th! We are the community site for the seed collection, and even if you can't join us on the 16th, until **October 19th**, you can collect seeds at home and bring them by to add to our growing total. Many seeds are being sought, such as Northern Red Oak, White Oak, Black Walnut and many more. Check out www.growingnative.org for a full seed list.

Please Note: ThorpeWood and Carroll County Public Schools will provide the meal for our November 2nd Community Dinner. **There are 30 spaces available for this dinner. It is very important that you RSVP no later than Wednesday, October 29th.**

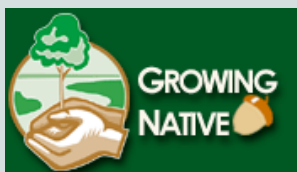
Please call 301-271-2823 and reserve your spot! We look forward to seeing many of you on the 2nd.

Go Batty

Go Batty! Get the basics about bats at ThorpeWood's "Go Batty" program on **October 24 at 6 p.m.** The program will focus on the common bats found in the Catoctin Mountains, their behaviors, and where to find them. Learn about bats in the environment and how they help us every day. Dispel myths about bats and learn the truth about these astonishing creatures! We will venture outside to catch glimpses of bats as they come out to snatch up hundreds of insects. Major topics that will be covered:

- What are bats and how are they classified?
- Bat senses and how they work
- Bat food
- Bats of the Catoctin Mountains and their behaviors
- How can we help bats

To join us for an evening with bats, pre-register for the event by calling 301-271-2823.





Damage from Isabelle

Up and Coming news:

Watch for more details regarding the following items:

- “Friends of ThorpeWood” Membership drive
- Holiday Open House

We’re on the Web!

www.thorpewood.org

Under reconstruction. We will be back on line by October 24th



THORPEWOOD

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Mission Statement

Thorpe Foundation, a not for profit organization, serves youth, local and regional communities by modeling stewardship of natural resources and providing environmental education through hands on learning opportunities.

September Community Dinner

In case you missed our September dinner, below is summary of the evenings’ presentation. Written by John Lind:

“The highlight of our September dinner was the thoroughly fascinating archeological presentation. Spencer Geasey, our local, professional archeologist, spent many years probing the remnants and relics of mid-Atlantic inhabitants from the paleo-Indian era (9,000 to 11,000 BC) through the archaic eras to the late woodland era (1600 AD). The Monocacy River course was popular for village sites, some of which have been discovered and investigated. Too often, modern civilization encroaches upon these sites destroying the knowledge that might otherwise have been gained.

“Essential deposits of flakable stone for rendering tools and hunting points were also available locally from the rhyolite geological strata running generally on the western side of Catoctin Mountain north to the Pennsylvania line. Native Americans from all eras followed the water courses of the eastern slope to and from these deposits pausing at rock shelters to rest and cull their loads of rhyolite. Spencer’s slide presentation showing some of these tools, spear and arrow points, was most enlightening.”



Mr. Geasey with John Lind during presentation

Looking For A Few Good Men, Women And Teenagers!

Adopt-a-Road is a great way to support ThorpeWood if you are interested in donating just a little time! This will be our last pick-up before Old Man Winter drops in!

Saturday, October 25th

If you are able to help out, please give Julie a call at 301-271-2823. We will meet at ThorpeWood at 9:00 a.m. and finish up around noon.

PLEASE NOTE: No one under 12 years of age can participate in the clean-up. This is a County rule.



Seasons at ThorpeWood

It is hard to miss the fact that fall has arrived! For a while it seemed we would have no fall and move right into winter!

We are happy to report that the colors are changing daily here on the mountain. The Hickory tree outside of the Chestnut Room is turning a brilliant yellow and others are following.

Thank you for the many calls we received following the recent storms. Fortunately, Isabelle did not damage any of the buildings on the property and the trees that were uprooted will be sent to a local sawyer to be milled into lumber to use on our property.

Winter offers it’s own very special time here on the mountain. Be sure to check us out in every season! There is never a bad day at ThorpeWood.