

Catoctin Mountain Happenings At ThorpeWood



Calendar Items:

Community Dinners:

Sunday,
September 14
and
Sunday, November 2

Adopt-A-Road

Saturday,
October 25

Bats, Bats and More Bats!

Friday, October 24
(Watch for details!)

Growing Native Seed Collection

Saturday, October 4



Third Thursday at
ThorpeWood

A Chat with Spencer Geasey!

We are pleased to invite you, your family and neighbors to our September Community Dinner.

On **Sunday, September 14th**, beginning at 4:00 p.m., our Catoctin Mountain neighbor, Spencer Geasey will speak to us about Native American activities in the Catoctin Mountains, their artifacts and rock shelters. Mr. Geasey started collecting Indian artifacts as a teenager in Great Neck, Long Island. After serving in the Army during World War II, he moved to Maryland and has been involved in Maryland archeology for nearly 60 years. Following his retirement from the federal government, he spent more than 20 years as a part-time archeological field assistant for various Maryland state agencies. A founder of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., he was awarded the Society's highest honor, the William B. Marye Award, in 1985. In 1993, the Maryland Historical Trust awarded him the Calvert Prize, the highest award for the preservation of Maryland's heritage.

- Please RSVP no later than **Thursday, September 11th** to 301-271-2823;
- Please be sure to indicate if you have children attending, how many and how old they are;
- Prepare food according to the list below that will feed 10 people. **If your last name begins with:**
 - A-H Main Dish
 - I-Q Side Dish
 - R-Y Dessert

There are some wonderful cooks in our midst and we would all appreciate some of those family recipes...if they can be shared!

When you provide a dish for our dinners, please include a card that has the name of the dish, the recipe and your name. We will use this to label your contribution and offer your recipe to others. We will provide 3x5 cards for those interested in copying your recipe.

Growing Native at ThorpeWood

What is *Growing Native*? Think of it as a widespread, volunteer-led environmental scavenger hunt-for you, but critical to the health of the watershed around you. This fall, thousands of volunteers throughout the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay region will search the grounds of parks, schools, churches, backyards, and other locations-collecting native tree seeds that will then be used to replenish depleted reserves for local tree planting projects.

This will be the third year that ThorpeWood has participated in this event, sponsored by The Potomac Conservancy. ThorpeWood will be a public site for all to come and collect seeds. The date of this event is **Saturday morning, October 4th**. Be sure to check out the website for further information: <http://www.potomac.org/growingnative>



Future ThorpeWood Community Dinners

After the September dinner, the next Community Dinner will be **Sunday, November 4th**. A dinner conversation topic has yet to be determined.

There are so many talented individuals in our community who would make excellent presenters at future dinners. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please give us a call!

Beginning in November, our Community Dinners will be scheduled every other month.

August Community Dinner

Wow, what a dinner! For those of you in attendance, nothing more needs to be said. For those of you unable to attend, Chef Ian Knox (Chef @ the President's Guest House) thrilled our taste buds with Bourbon marinated beef brisket, brined and smoked turkey breast, spicy chicken drums, and grilled fruits and vegetables. After the meal Ian answered many questions and told a bit about some of his experiences working at Blair House for 14 years.

Our local naturalists, Jim and Teresa Gallion presented a "crash course" on native and non-native/exotic invasive plants. It was marvelous to learn more about the vital relationship between plant and insect. Their slide presentation had great examples of this, particularly native plants and butterflies. The presentation was intended to prepare us for the Native Wonders and Exotic Blunders weekend (see article on back page).



Diana with beets from ThorpeWood's Garden

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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.

Native Wonders and Exotic Blunders—Native Plant Presentation and Guided Walk and Weed Pull

On **August 22nd**, we welcomed a dozen enthusiastic folks interested in native plants. Jim Gallion spoke to the group about native plants and the diversity and beauty they afford our environment, and at the same time learn how the beauty of our natural landscape is being threatened by non-native invasive species of plants that out compete native plants and rapidly take over forest, field, and stream.

About 22 enthusiastic "Back Crick Weed Busters" arrived bright and early on **August 23rd** to do some serious removal of invasive species. Prior to this day, Aaron Morehouse, Program Coordinator, took time to identify, with flags, areas filled with invasive plants to be pulled. The day was a huge success...although there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done in the coming year to rid ThorpeWood of all invasive species.

At the end of the weed pull, all participants received a "Back Crick Weed Busters" t-shirt and a huge thank you!



July's Adopt-A-Road Crew

Adopt-A-Road

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Adopt-a-Road is an opportunity for the public to assist in cleaning litter on local roads and to preserve the natural landscape of our community. ThorpeWood has adopted Catoctin Hollow Road for our effort. The group will work as a team throughout the year to make this road beautiful!

Above is the crew that volunteered a few hours on a Saturday morning in July to assist with the clean-up. Do you recognize anyone?

The next date for our clean-up is: **Saturday, October 25th**. We all meet at ThorpeWood at **9:00 a.m.** and finish up around noon.