

Catoctin Mountain Happenings At ThorpeWood



Calendar Items:

Community Dinner:

Sunday,
February 29th
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Third Thursday at
ThorpeWood**

Thursday
February 19th
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



ThorpeWood Staff

Community Potluck Dinner Kickoff!!

What's Your Watershed Address?

Sunday, February 29th from 4-8 pm

Come join us for our first Community Potluck Dinner in 2004. Break bread with your neighbors and the community of Hunting Creek Watershed while learning more about our watershed neighborhood with presentations by Ken Yetman of Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other watershed enthusiasts.

Bussard Branch, Little Hunting Creek, Big Hunting Creek, Hunting Creek: these are all familiar names as the creeks you fish in, swim in, and hike by or across. Whether for recreation or water to drink, these are the creeks of Hunting Creek Watershed that have always brought life to the people of this area.

On February 29th, we will have representatives from Maryland DNR and Frederick County government to present the current Upper Monocacy Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS). The WRAS is a study of the watersheds around the Upper Monocacy and the creation of a plan on how to preserve watershed health where it is good, and how to improve those areas that are ailing. You will learn more about what WRAS is about, and how you can be involved.

It is our goal through the coming year to be a community center for you, to keep you informed on what is happening in your watershed, and involve you in the process. Come to the dinner on the 29th to share food, share conversation, and share in the community that is Hunting Creek Watershed.

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, February 25th, 301-271-2823. When calling please indicate the food you will bring to share according to the list below. Please prepare enough for your family plus 6 people:

- Appetizers (chips, dips, veggies, etc.)
- Main Dish (pasta, ham, fish, etc.)
- Side Dish (salads, casseroles, etc.)
- Desserts

We have included with this newsletter a blank recipe card for you to provide with your shared dish. We hope to see many of you on the 29th!



Holiday Open House at ThorpeWood

Our 2003 Open House was a huge success. We estimate that about 250 people visited ThorpeWood the evening of December 12th. Many were first-time visitors, who knew very little about ThorpeWood and our commitment to environmental education. The staff enjoyed showing off the facility! We look forward to our 2004 Open House! Thanks to the many volunteers who helped out with this event!

Go Batty

By: Jenny Woodall, Volunteer

ThorpeWood's "Go Batty" program was good, clean fun for the whole family! I know that bats are essentially good creatures, that they eat hordes of insects, and that they don't deserve their sketchy reputation. But after a few unpleasant experiences involving bats in our bedroom at 2:00 a.m., I was in need of a reminder about the virtues of bats. Like...

Did you know that the giant flying fox, a species of bat in Indonesia, has a wingspan of nearly 6 feet? (I'd hate to have that in my bedroom!) More impressively, the fishing bat's echolocation is so sophisticated that it can detect a minnow's fin protruding two millimeters above a pond's surface!

My husband, my 3-year-old daughter, and I all got something out of the Go Batty program. My daughter raised her hand to pose her first official question at a presentation: "What do bats do when they aren't flying?" She was treated as a serious participant and got a serious answer.

Perhaps my favorite part was watching my shy husband pretend to be a mama bat during a fun audience participation segment on how mother bats communicate with their babies. The question I forgot to ask: "How do you say, 'Get out of my bedroom!' in bat language?"

Volunteer
"Mama Bat"
Kai Hagen



**November 2004
Community Dinner**
By Laura Dodge, Volunteer



Up and Coming News

*Watch for more details
regarding the following
items:*

- *ThorpeWood Volunteer
Recognition Dinner
Friday, April 2nd*
- *"Cooking with Ian"
Saturday, April 24th*
- *The BIG Sweep Saturday,
April 17th*

At the last Community Dinner, the theme was the American chestnut tree. Many came to learn about the chestnut tree from our guest speaker, Dr. Doug Boucher, Professor of Biology at Hood College. Prior to dinner a number of guests toured ThorpeWood's chestnut orchard with Stephen Dodge, ThorpeWood's chestnut orchard manager.

After dinner, Dr. Boucher discussed the history of the American chestnut tree as well as its economic and ecological significance. Introduction of the chestnut blight ultimately decimated the American chestnut population. Dr. Boucher explained the ongoing effort to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut through a back cross breeding program. As a site approved by the American Chestnut Foundation, ThorpeWood continues the commitment to this research and development.

ThorpeWood has been active in the formation of the new Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, and Dr. Boucher shared the chapter's membership plaque, to be displayed at ThorpeWood. Heartfelt thanks were conveyed to all those present, many of whom have been instrumental in supporting Maryland's chestnut restoration projects.

To learn more about the American chestnut tree, take a look at the following websites: The American Chestnut Foundation: <http://www.acf.org> or ThorpeWood: <http://www.thorpewood.org> in the special projects section.



Dr.
Boucher
speaking
with
audience

**Our Website is up and looking
great!**

Check us out at:

www.thorpewood.org



**CLEAN WATER IS
IN THE BAG**

*Homeowners Plant
Trees to Improve Streams*

Would you like to help protect your local waters and the Chesapeake Bay without leaving your own backyard? The Potomac Watershed Partnership, in cooperation with Maryland Forest Service, the Monocacy River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy Committee, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and other state, county, and local conservation groups would like to help by offering the *Backyard Buffers Program* to Frederick County homeowners.

If you have an unprotected drainage ditch, stream, creek, or river flowing through your property or live adjacent to such a waterway you could qualify for a free "Buffer in a Bag". Qualified Frederick County homeowners will receive one Buffer in a Bag enough for a 50-foot section of an unprotected waterway on or adjacent to their property. You can follow a few easy steps for planting trees and shrubs to become a part of the solution for cleaner water.

A brief application must be submitted before March 20, 2004. To learn more about Backyard Buffers and how you can receive your free Buffer in a Bag please contact the:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources,
Forest Service
301-416-7261
or e-mail periksson@nfis.com



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.