

April 2006



# Catoctin Mountain Happenings At ThorpeWood

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events @ ThorpeWood:

## Garden Club with Jim Gallion

Monday mornings  
9:00 a.m. – Noon  
(April 17, April 24,  
May 1 & May 8)

## Star Party @ ThorpeWood

Friday, May 5  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.



## June Community Dinner

Sunday, June 25  
Native Plants  
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

## Third Thursday @ ThorpeWood

Thursday, April 20  
Thursday, May 18  
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

## Have you become a Friend of ThorpeWood? Is it time for you to renew?

We look forward to welcoming new and renewing members!

## COMING TO A TV CLOSE TO YOU:

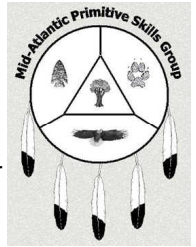
**The Darby Show!** Be sure to check your cable listing and tune in when Darby will feature ThorpeWood! For dates and times, check out [www.thedarbyshow.com](http://www.thedarbyshow.com) or ThorpeWood's website!



Check out our website to learn more about our Community Events and becoming a Friend of ThorpeWood!  
[www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org)

## April Community Dinner at ThorpeWood

Sunday, April 30  
4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.  
by Susan Smith, Volunteer Community Dinner Coordinator



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Dinner of the year will be held on **Sunday, April 30**. The dinner will begin with a time of gathering and fellowship at 4:00 p.m. The theme is **Wild Edibles**. Our speaker will be Kevin Haney, founding member and current coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Primitive Skills Group. This group is devoted to helping its members become more proficient at the whole range of primitive skills and living in harmony with the Earth. Kevin has been studying primitive skills and neo-aboriginal philosophies for 12 years and organizing events for the past nine years. Kevin also serves as Vice President of Ancestral Knowledge, a non-profit organization whose goal is to teach ancient and modern technologies, activities and philosophies that support a sustainable lifestyle. Kevin lives in a log cabin in the woods outside of Thurmont.

The theme for the meal is **Soup & Bread**. Please bring your favorite soup to share or a can/jar of "something" (no meat, please) that can be added to the communal soup pot. You may also bring your favorite bread, homemade or purchased, and if you have a favorite butter or spread, bring it along. Of course, appetizers and desserts are always welcome!

Contrary to what we normally do, this time we'll eat after Kevin's presentation. This will allow time for our "communal soup pot" to simmer. Kevin may plan a short field presentation, so come prepared to be outside and walking for a time. If you would like to help with set-up, please arrive around 3:30 p.m., and those helping with clean-up please plan to stay a little later than most. Please mark your calendar! We look forward to seeing you on April 30. RSVP's are not required, but helpful.

Four more dinners are scheduled in 2006: June 25 (Jim Gallion will speak about native plants), August 27, October 29 and December 17 – all Sunday afternoons. If you have a suggestion for a topic or theme for a dinner, please let me know. Thank you for helping to make the Community Dinners at ThorpeWood a success. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Susan at 301-271-0645 or [diverdownmom@aol.com](mailto:diverdownmom@aol.com).



## Star Party @ Stoney Lick Farm

Friday, May 5 – 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
By Matt Simon

Matt Simon, a junior at Governor Thomas Johnson High School, is in the process of completing his senior project – a requirement for graduation. He contacted ThorpeWood to help him with his Star Party. Below is his story:

"Pulling from my interest in science, astronomy in particular, I have decided to host a star party for my senior graduation project. I have owned a telescope for the last five or six years and attended a few star parties myself. With the help of my neighbor, also my project mentor, Bill Smith, I contacted ThorpeWood and they have agreed to give me a location for this event. The Star Party will take place on Friday, May 5, at Stoney Lick Farm @ ThorpeWood. The following Friday, May 12 will be the rain/cloud date. I would like as many telescopes as possible at the event, so if you own a telescope and plan to attend, please don't hesitate to bring it along. This event is open to everyone!

"I became interested in astronomy at a young age and would like to encourage other kids to learn about the stars and gain the same passion and respect for astrology as I have. All kids from first grade and up are welcome to attend with their parents. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, you can reach me at home at 301-698-6170 or via e-mail at [KiNgOfThEGnOmEs@aol.com](mailto:KiNgOfThEGnOmEs@aol.com), or you can call ThorpeWood at 301-271-2823 for more information or to RSVP."

## Maryland's Native Brook Trout Restoration Initiative

On February 28, 2006, ThorpeWood hosted a meeting of more than 50 individuals, organizations, and agency personnel who are concerned about the future of native brook trout in Maryland.

All in attendance agreed that protecting what remains of Maryland's wild brook trout population and habitat is a challenging task. While there is no quick fix, the collective interest evident at the meeting and the expertise and talent available through this new brook trout initiative is certainly a start in the right direction.

ThorpeWood will host a second meeting on May 5 to further the initiative.



### 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.

## February Community Dinner Wrap-up

By Charles "Beetle" Bailey



Ann and I would like to thank the ThorpeWood staff and neighborhood volunteers for the February Community Dinner. Hospitality and friendship were in abundance as evidenced by the variety and quantity of community prepared food. Add to the food the always-engaging conversations amongst neighbors and friends of ThorpeWood and it made for an enjoyable evening.

Gail Webber's presentation on water quality was both enlightening and thought provoking. We did not fully realize the various factors, both manmade and environmental, that influenced the quality of water. Gail's simulated demonstration of real life situations including farming, office parks, new housing developments, normal forest activities, etc., was an eye opener. We now better understand the need for holding ponds at construction sites, the need to limit field run off and even the impact of animal life on water quality. Please continue the community gatherings; they are most enjoyable and always seem to address timely subjects.

### Environmental Program at ThorpeWood

Earlier this month, 12 local high school students participated in the first Highlands Environmental Leadership Program at ThorpeWood. Sponsored by the Highlands Action Program and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the weekend at ThorpeWood was the first in a three-weekend series in which students will gain insight into the linkage between local, regional and global conditions. The next weekend will be spent at Swallow Falls State Park and the third at Calvert Cliffs State Park.

Learning about Raptors



Paul Kazyak, who is not only a DNR employee, but also a ThorpeWood volunteer, is the brains behind the program. "One of the things I think is missing in the environmental community is that we don't go out of our way to train leaders," Kazyak said. "This is an attempt to get information to these kids early on, and teach them about lobbyists, scientists and marketing...one person can make a huge difference and inspire others."

### Watershed Signage

You may have noticed, in the northern part of the County, new road signs along some of the county roads. The signs tell drivers when they are entering the watersheds of different streams. The purpose is to help people understand the connection between the streams in Frederick County and the land that drains to them. A portion of the cost for these signs was covered under a grant received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For more information on this project and the partner organizations working together on this project, please go to the Monocacy and Catoctin Watershed Alliance website: [http://www.watershed-alliance.com/mcwa\\_educate.html](http://www.watershed-alliance.com/mcwa_educate.html).



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