



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Fall 2019 Issue Vol. 10, No. 4

Friends of Mountwood Park Officers:

Peggy Squires, President
Melody Crawford, Vice President
Carolyn Naylor, Secretary
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

Autumn



Quote by Muhammed Ali

**“Service to others is the
rent you pay for your
room here on earth.”**

Coming Soon!

**September 27 – September 29
Volcano Days**

**The Historic Wagon Rides to the
Former Stiles Mansion Site
When: Saturday and Sunday
Time: 12 noon and 3 pm**

Wagon Rides at Volcano Days

By Mike Naylor

Wagon rides to the Stiles Mansion Site will be at 12 noon and 3 pm on Saturday and Sunday. You may purchase tickets in advance by stopping by the visitor center/museum. The price is only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under the age of 18). There are a limited number of seats so don't put off purchasing your ticket. The rides leave on time so don't be late.

Letter from Our President Peggy Squires

AS summer ends, we are busy getting ready for Volcano Days. Starting Friday, September 27 the Park will be full of vendors, entertainment and old fashion engines. On Saturday and Sunday, we will have wagon rides to the Stiles Mansion Site. This is approximately a 2-hour trip with Mike Naylor and Red Neck Nellie (portrayed by Patty Cooper) telling the story of Volcano. The price is only \$10.00 for adults (over the age of 17 years) and \$5.00 for children.

It has been a busy year with our Adventure Camp on July 15-19. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this event a success. Also, thanks to Jim Parsons with Archery; Ohio River Islands with their presentation; the State police and sheriff's departments; Department of Natural Resources for their presentation on how to be safe when lost in the woods and Debbie Smith with her dog Shamrock teaching us about dog safety.

Each camper made a birdhouse under the instruction of Bob Zellny. They all did a good job and seemed excited to be working with hammers and nails! They were all happy when they learned they would be tie dying a T-shirt. The shirts had a Mountwood Park logo on them and turned out really nice. When they went fishing in the lake, they were excited when they caught fish and we made sure to allow time for them to play in the creek, a favorite activity.

With Volcano Days as our last main event, we will begin our planning for next year. However, you can still contact Mike Naylor to visit the museum or tour the Mansion site. Several groups and schools have taken advantage of this history of Volcano and the oil industry that was there. We are also having historical signs made and erected along the Taitt Trail for you to see as you hike to the mansion.

Our Park is a treasure of history and beauty. Come join us!

Historic Volcano Signs

By Mike Naylor

Over time, friends and neighbors with interest in local history have donated money with instructions that it should be used to tell the Volcano story. Thanks to their generosity, the Friends of Mountwood Park has asked Elite Signs of Vienna to construct 10 historic signs to be placed strategically in the Park. The signs measure 4' (x) 6' and through pictures tell the story of Volcano.

Parkersburg Obedience Training Club Made Generous Donation!

By Carolyn Naylor

We want to thank the Parkersburg Obedience Training Club for their generous donation to help us with the expenses of maintaining the dog park. Since we are a nonprofit organization, we are so thankful whenever we receive a donation.

The Good Old Days!



Quote by Mother Teresa:

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Quote by The Dalai Lama:

“It is not enough to be compassionate—you must act.”

Volcano Pioneers

By Carolyn Naylor



Front Row L to R: David K. Reece, Mr. Morrison, Charles Gilmon Taitt, Ulyseus Fleming, and Reverend John Reece. Standing L to R: Clark Reece and two men from the DeMoss family.

David K. Reece was born September 12, 1862 to William and Anne (Bowen) Reece and died January 24, 1964. He was 101 years old when he died. During his life he ran a general store.

Charles Gilmon Taitt was born May 4, 1875 to John and Matilda (Black) Taitt. He was 89 years old when he died on November 6, 1964. He was a retired oil field foreman.

If you can provide us with any information about the men in this picture, we would like to hear from you. You can contact us at: mikecaroll@suddenlink.net. If you prefer, you may call Mike Naylor at 304-485-5365.

Anna McCandless O'Brien



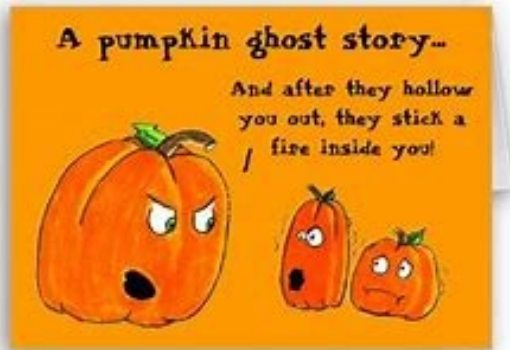
Anna McCandless was the daughter of Thomas and Eliza McCandless. Anna married Dennis O'Brien in 1890 and gave him five children. Unfortunately, one was an unnamed son born at Volcano.

Mrs. O'Brien's grandson Jim Hardigg said he was very fond of his grandmother and thought she had sound ideas about how one should live. When he was about seven years old, she told him he should avoid three things if he could— "tobacco, alcohol, and Coca-Cola". (From 1886 – 1929 Coke had cocaine in it, in varying amounts. At the time, cocaine was legal and treated as a medicine.)

Mr. Hardigg said she enjoyed sitting in the swing on the screened-in porch. He felt she was probably remembering pleasant times when his grandfather and her children were there.

In 1898, the O'Brien family moved to Parkersburg. Anna was the first president of the board of directors of the Parkersburg YMCA.

For more information on Dennis and Anna O'Brien, go to the 2018 Fall Issue of our newsletter.



Museum Report for August

By Mike Naylor

From May through August, there have been 238 visitors to the museum. Sales and donations from January through August totaled \$480.95. We also handed out trail maps, brochures and answered questions about Mountwood Park. Our greatest problem is finding volunteers to keep the door open!

When you think of the good old days, think of one word: Dentistry.

P. J. O'Rourke



Contact Information

**Administration Building
Lake House Reservation
Shelter & Building Rentals
304-679-3611**

**Campground Information
304-679-3610**

**Mountwood Park
1014 Volcano Road
Waverly, WV 26184**

Adventure Camp at Mountwood Park was a Success!!

By Carolyn Naylor

In July, Friends hosted our annual Adventure Camp that ran five days from 9 am to noon. We are thankful to the financial support we received from the Little Kanawha Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). The weather was great and the children and volunteers had fun! The attendees enjoyed participating



in outdoor activities, such as hiking, archery, playing games, and fishing. A favorite activity seemed to be playing in the creek. They also learned about water pollution, how to behave around

Taking a moment to pose after a face painting session! What memories.

dogs that show up unexpectedly, what they should do if they get lost in the woods, and the difference between therapy dogs and service dogs.

We want to thank the Wood County Sheriff's Department, the West Virginia State Police, the Department of Natural Resources, the Archery Club, and Debbie Smith for joining us to help us make the week special for the kids. They gave us some very important information we all need to know to stay safe. For example, most of us didn't have a clue about what to do if we got lost in the woods. Screaming "Help" isn't always helpful, especially if there isn't anybody near. What if a strange dog shows up? We also didn't know the difference between a service dogs and therapy dogs. How should we react if we see the police with their partner that happens to be a dog? We now know the answers to these questions and so much more.



Wood County Sheriff's Department Deputy Phillips and her K9 partner Drago.

Friends members Mike Naylor, Bob Zellny, and Patty Cooper lead the group on a hike through the Park.



Face Painting! What fun! The boys enjoyed this as much as the girls.



Checking out the birdhouses before the children take them home are Friends members and volunteers Mike Naylor on the left. On the right, in the rear are Jeff Richards, Bob Zellny, and Gene Bates. They were yelling, "Last one!"

A favorite activity is playing in the creek, especially when it is hot!



Anxiously waiting to start tie dying their T-shirt. Check out the smiles.

After constructing bird houses the children took time-out to pose with their instructor and Friends member Bob Zellny. Bob does a really good job with the kids! He wants them to have fun and it shows.

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