



# The Friends of Mountwood Park, Inc.

P. O. Box 2094, Parkersburg, WV 26102

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West Virginia's State Flower, the Beautiful Rhododendron

## **Friends of Mountwood Park Officers**

**Peggy Squires, President**

**Rose Russell, Vice President**

**Carolyn Naylor, Secretary**

**Mike Naylor, Treasurer**

**Museum Open Saturday & Sunday  
Hours: 1 pm to 4 pm**

## **Letter from Our President**

We are busy making plans for Adventure Camp on July 24 – 28. This year, along with the Little Kanawha RC&D, we are receiving help from Sportman's Warehouse in Vienna. We have already received 12 applications. We have to limit our Camp to 20 campers so if your child wants to attend, it is important that you complete an application. If you have any questions, you may call me or the Park.

We are lining up activities and Bob Zellny is looking at a special birdhouse

for the campers to build. We already have herpatologists, search dogs, and fishing scheduled. We are excited about this year's Camp.

Woof Fest will be on September 10 this year. Get your dog's costumes and tricks together for some four-legged fun.

Come and join us at the Park. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. Watch our website for time and place.

See you at the Park! Peggy Squires

**"If you're not barefoot, you're overdressed." Unknown**

## **Easter Egg Hunt 2023, a Success**

**By Carolyn Naylor**

Our annual Easter Egg hunt this year was a success. How do I know? When the children arrived with their parents, they were smiling and looked eager to get

started—the smaller ones, looked a little scared. However, when it was over, it felt really good to hear their excited chatter and see them smiling ear to ear. I noticed parents smiling as their child showed them their bounty.



We really appreciate the Colonial House (Parkersburg) and Harmony Ridge (Mountwood Park) for helping us stuff eggs and the five Woof Fest Queens who helped us make things run smoothly.

It was all over in 10 minutes but the smiles probably lasted all day.

**“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken.”  
James Dent**

## **Museum Updates**

**By Mike Naylor**

I am happy to report the museum had 109 visitors in May this year. This is especially good news, since we were without electricity one day and two days were of monsoon quality. Last year, our attendance for May was 87.

**Volcano quilt**--We are having a display case built for the Volcano quilt donated by Cheslyn and Mary Jonas. The quilt will be mounted on the wall and will be taken to the Administration building at the end of the season.

**New derrick**--We are moving ahead with the construction of a 28-foot scale model of a wooden derrick to be placed near the wheel house. Hopefully, it will be in place by Volcano Days.



Fifty of the eggs had a slip of paper that could be turned in for an Easter basket.

It took hours to fill the eggs and baskets. There were approximately 4 to 5 thousand plastic eggs.

We are thankful for the donations we received and the volunteers who helped.

**Glass negative pictures--**Anne Stiles Sinsky donated two glass negative pictures; one of a younger Mr. Stiles and the other, Mrs. Stiles.

The Framing Gallery at the Parkersburg Art Center put together a shadow box that will protect the pictures for many years. They are on display at the museum.

**Mountaineer Trail Network Association--**Representatives of the Trail Association toured the museum and outdoor displays to assist with development of a marketing plan for the Association.

**Remember, even on your worst day, you would be a great volunteer.**

**“Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”** Dr. Seuss

### **Mary Reece**

Pictured to the right is Mary Reece when she was a young girl. When I saw it, the only thing I could think of was, what a cute and wholesome looking girl. I decided to share it with you because it made me feel good just looking at it. Hopefully, it will stir some good feelings in you. The building on the hill behind Mary is the Volcano Hotel.



Photo courtesy of Carl Dunlap

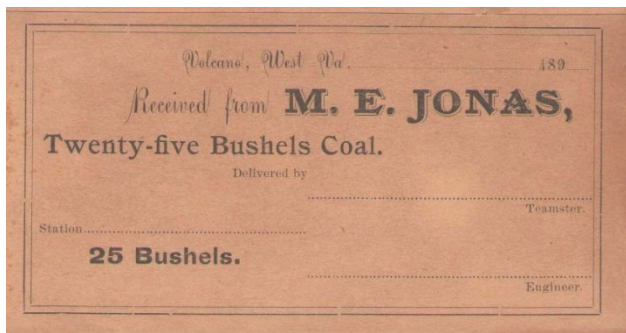
## **Good News for the Park and Wood County**

**By Carolyn Naylor**

I was very excited when I read in the *Parkersburg News and Sentinel* that the Mountwood Park Trail Center and Campground Project is scheduled to receive \$2,600,247! The money will be used to construct a state-of-the-art trail-side campground, in addition to 5 to 7 miles of new, bike-optimized, trails in the soon-to-launch Mountaineer Trail Network.

Blair Couch, Wood County Commission President, who serves on the Mountwood Park Board, said the Park is planning to combine that money with \$3 million they already have to secure an old family coal mine located in the Park as well as build

new family campgrounds in an underutilized part of the Park.



**M. E. Jonas coal receipt**

It is wonderful to see that people are beginning to realize that the Park has a lot of potential and with just a little help, could really become something you and I will be proud of.

## **Letter written by Dr. Wesley Harris Sharp**

**By Carolyn Naylor**

*(NOTE: The information below is my translation of a letter written by Dr. Sharp, one of Volcano's physicians. The date is not available.)*

In the West Virginia oil district three villages have sprung up.

**Burning Springs** where during the busy days probably existed the best and most amicable state of society. Many prepared themselves attractive homes.

Now it is almost deserted: Its' most energetic citizens gone in search of fresh fields for operations. If business does not improve, it will be a deserted town

only occupied by squatters who may straggle in from the surrounding country.

**Petroleum** is a small village, a shipping place, and the headquarters of one of the large companies where they are shipping in countless large iron and wooden tanks.

In **Volcano** the proof of a town in the oil region is scalloped over the hills and in hollows. Among the derricks is a village of 600 or 800 inhabitants. The forests now cut away and the land neglected. In the past few years, dense undergrowth has appeared and now, it is a town hid in the bushes.

In the early days, the most ambitious dwellings were 12 X 16 log cabins which served as quarters for the early operators. As things became more settled the board shanty made its appearance, a second step in the process of evolution. Boarding houses were furnished in a primitive but substantial style. There were but few families--most operators were living with their families in Parkersburg.

In 1868, there were some improvements. The railroad had reached Volcano and the first signs of the town appeared. House materials began to arrive daily and a few more families moved in.

Occasionally, a stragging preacher called out to a few of the faithful. A lodge of good templars has organized and a democratic and a republican club. Efforts were now made to make the

shanties more comfortable by using plastering paper. Still, anything was temporary.

In 1869, there was some improvement. Still rowdiness often ruled the day and those considerate had to patiently submit.

In 1870, we made a step to advance. We organized as a school district, built a large school house, elected officers of justice, built churches, cemeteries, machine shops, halls, and more permanent dwellings. To live in the oil region is no longer a disgrace. Society has gradually come out of the chaos of the early days and a more peaceful and orderly place can hardly be found in the State. But with all its faults in early days, its troops of men carousing – its’ floating population, both male and female -- it was never noted for disturbances that made existence for families risky in a mining town.

### **Milky Way Over Mountwood**

Damon Rhodes, a “frequent flyer” at Mountwood, recently took a photo of the Milky Way and it is stunning! One picture truly is worth 1,000 words.



Photo Courtesy of Damon Rhodes

### **Schedule of Events**

**Adventure Camp – July 24 – July 28  
9 am to 12 noon**

**Woof Fest Festival – September 10  
Volcano Days – September 22, 23 & 24**

**For more information, call us at:  
304-679-3611**

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