



# The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Spring 2019 Issue Vol. 10, No. 2

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Friends of Mountwood Park Officers  
Peggy Squires, President  
Melody Crawford, Vice President  
Carolyn Naylor, Secretary  
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

Friends meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

## •Letter from the President Peggy Squires

Hello Friends,  
We are starting a new year at Mountwood Park; the dates for our main events have been posted. We have a new website; please check it out at [www.friendsofmountwoodpark.com](http://www.friendsofmountwoodpark.com).

We have plans to have the new doggie waste bag dispenser, which was donated by John Reed, placed at the Marina parking lot area and relocating the present one at the campground. I have talked with Jeremy and John about fencing in an area at the campgrounds for the dogs there to enjoy.

Our first event will be a pageant to select our Miss Woolf Fest Queen to represent our event and the Park. She will attend The Fairs and Festival Pageant. Thank you Oceanna Smith for doing a great job this past year. Also, there are Pageants for the younger ladies--these ladies help with Park events as well as representing Woolf Fest and the Park in parades and pageants. Thanks to all of you and your families for your work and time, Olivia

Buzzard, Alyssa Barker, Madison Nicholson, and Alyssa Nicholson.

Next, we have our Easter Egg Hunt. This event is a favorite of the children, through age 12. Some of the eggs will contain a note informing the child they have won a basket. This is a free event.

With the help of Friends, the residents of the Colonial House, Park staff and others, we will be filling plastic eggs. If you wish to donate candy that will fit in the eggs, plastic eggs, baskets, or stuffed animals, please drop them off at the Park or one of our meetings on March 14 or April 11. We appreciate the help and donations.

We are also getting ready for our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Woolf Fest Event on April 28, featuring contests, pageants, demonstrations, vendors, and lots of fun with your dog. This event supports our dog park with disposal bags, and additions and improvements, and plans for a fenced area at the campground this year.

The Museum will be opening in May and we need volunteers to staff it. Our hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm. If this is something you have thought about doing, call or e-mail Mike. He can answer any questions you might have. The museum closes after Volcano Days.

Our Adventure Camp will be held July 15-19. Our camp provides lots of

outdoor fun for children from age 9 to 12.

As you can see, we have a busy fun-filled year planned. Come join us and make this the best year yet.

•**Thank you Anne Stiles Sinskey!**

By Mike Naylor, Treasurer

Mr. William Cooper Stiles' great-granddaughter Anne Stiles Sinskey has made a generous contribution to Friends to help us replace the interpretive signs at the Thornhill site.

Since 2010, when the original signs were erected, we have gathered more information about the Thornhill estate. The four existing signs will be replaced by one larger sign providing more information. This will provide a better experience for those hiking to the site and for those taking a scheduled tour.

Again, thank you Ms. Sinskey!

•**2019 Calendar of Events**

**March 30 -- Miss Woof Fest Pageant**

Participants will compete in age groups for the titles. For more information, call Peggy Squires at 304-588 9148.

**April 20 -- Easter egg Hunt**

**Time: 11 am at Carson Station**

All children under the age of 13 years are invited to participate in the hunt. There is no charge. Don't be late because it will start on time and the eggs go quickly.

**April 28 -- Woof Fest**

**Time: 12 noon to 5 pm**

You and your friendly leashed pet are invited to our dog carnival. There will be many activities, demonstrations, vendors, and raffles. There will be freebies and the Dock Dogs will be there for your enjoyment.

**July 15 – July 19 -- Adventure Camp**

**Time: 9 am to 12 noon**

Adventure Camp is for children 9 to 12 years of age. Since this is an outdoor camp, the children will probably not be returning home as clean as they were when dropped off. The activities include hiking, archery, and fishing.

**September 27 – 29 -- Volcano Days**

**Antique Engine Show and Festival**

**Time: Friday 5 pm through Sunday 5 pm**

You are invited to join us as we pay tribute to Volcano, West Virginia, a mid-1800s oil-boom town. You will hear the restored engines sputter as wheels and gears turn as they once did. There will be lots of food, live music, and craft vendors. There will also be historic wagon rides that include the ruins of Thornhill, the former mansion of William Cooper Stiles, Jr., who was known as the “father of Volcano.” Be sure to include the Volcano Museum, located in the Park's visitor center.

•**Museum donations**

By Mike Naylor, Treasurer

We are thankful for the following donations received at the museum in 2018.

•Chandelier prism—Ms. Betty Hickman of Rockport, WV donated a cut-stone prism from the chandelier that greeted guests upon entry to Thornhill. It is about four inches long and is elegantly cut. Ms. Hickman stopped at the museum during Volcano Days.

•Wooden chair—Susan and Linwood Lowden donated a wooden chair owned by Ulysses Fleming, long-time Volcano resident and a former owner of the Volcano hotel. It is likely the chair was used at the hotel. It is quite heavy, an indicator of quality construction.

•Steve Parker, our research guru in Morgantown, compiled a notebook containing newspaper accounts of Volcano reunions from 1893 through 1969. It will be available at the museum for everyone to use.

Thank you!!

## •The People of Volcano

By Carolyn Naylor

•Robert Fleming was an engineer for the Laurel Fork and Sand Hill Rail Road.



Although I haven't been able to find any more information on Mr. Fleming, we are fortunate to have these photos. I assume he left the area once the railroad closed.



- Minter Judson Modisett was listed in the 1880 Directory of Volcano as a laborer. The *History of Oil and Gas Industry in West Virginia* by Dr. Eugene Thoinen states that the standard wage for a laborer was \$1.50 per day.

The term laborer was used to describe a worker who didn't wear the badge of a particular trade, such as an engineer, so laborer is what they were stuck with. Laborers were very important because they performed their work at the beginning of any new endeavor.

Although Mr. Modisett had to work hard, he outlived two wives. His first wife, Mary Ellen (Randall) Modisett was only 24 years old when she died at Volcano of tuberculosis. She is buried at Deerwalk in Mount Cemetery.

His second wife was Lucinda (Lucy) Cochran. Lucy gave him six children, Rosa Della, Jerusia, Lucy, Charles, Bessie, and Clara. Lucinda was 71 years old when she died in 1920 and is buried in the Leachtown Chapel Cemetery.

Mr. Modisett was 77 years old when he died on March 19, 1924. He is buried at Deerwalk in Mount Cemetery.

If you have any photos of Mr. Modisett and/or his family, please share it with us.

•Christian (Chris) M. Zones was a machinist who was remembered as the smith who could repair anything.

In 1898 a visitor who had not been to Volcano for 25 years commented that at one time the busiest section of the town was where Chris Zones had his machine shop and every day the mid-day whistle of his shop could be heard by the people of Volcano. Unfortunately, once the railroad closed Chris had a decline in work so he tore down his shop, machinery and all, and moved to Cairo, West Virginia. At Cairo, Chris, along with Frank Davis, also from Volcano, operated an oil field and blacksmith shop.

According to the following article which appeared in the *Parkersburg Gazette* in 1871 Chris was a victim of a theft. *“John Edwards was committed to jail Tuesday by Squire Dils for stealing a watch from Christian M. Zones a machinist from White Oak. It appeared that the two were on a little bit of a lark together and Edwards became infatuated with Zones’ watch, which was a fine large American lever, with a silver attachment like a log chain. Mr. Edwards appears to be a scalawag hailing from Georgia, Cumberland, or any other place. He pawned the watch, which is worth \$120 for \$15 and Zones is out that amount. We hope he will WATCH closer hereafter.”*

Mr. Zones’ silver watch made the news again in the September 16, 1873 issue of the *Volcano Lubricator*. *“Mr. C. M. Zones has, we think, the largest silver watch in West Va. The cases were manufactured by Z. T. Devore, Jeweler of this place, and weigh 10 oz. the whole arrangement chain and*

*all weighs 1 lb. and 4 oz. troy weight. The cases are plain except on the back is a very finely engraved engine, and on the tender is engraved the name of the owner of the watch. The outfit cost \$136 and Mr. Zones is well pleased with his bargain.”*



**Chris Zones is sitting on the engine of the Gratz, one of two engines provided by the Laurel Fork and Sand Hill Railroad. Frank Davis is at the controls.**

•**Quote from Winston Churchill:**  
**A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.**

- **Park Contact Information**  
**Administration Building**  
**ATV Adventures**  
**Horse Camp**  
**Lake House Reservations**  
**304-679-3611**  
  
**Campground**  
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