



Newsletter

The Friends of Mountwood Park

P.O. Box 2094, Parkersburg, WV 26102

FALL 2026, ISSUE VOL. 17, NO. 4

FABULOUS FALL!



"The proverb says that Providence protects children and idiots. That is true. I know it because I have tested it." Quote from Mark Twain Wit & Wisecracks:

2026 Schedule of Events

SEPT 13
Woof Fest
SEPT 19
Mountwood 10-mile Challenge
Trail Race
SEPT 25-27
Volcano Days

If you have any questions, you can contact Mountwood Park by calling (304) 679-3611. If you wish to contact Friends of Mountwood Park, visit us on Facebook.

Officers of The Friends of Mountwood Park

Peggy Squires, President
Rose Russell, Vice President
Dina Braniff, Secretary
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."

A lyric from John Lennon's 1980 song "Beautiful Boy (Darling Boy)".

Letter from the President Peggy Squires

It is time for our Woof Fest Event at the Park. We have contests, a girls' pageant, pet pageant, mud run, blessing of the animals, and vendors including some new ones. Stop at Maggie Moos for great ice cream products.

Here is our Woof Fest schedule.

- 12:00 Opening of our Festival
- 12:15 Tail waggin' Contest
- 12:30 Pet Pageant
- 1:00 Miss Woof Fest Kids Pageant
- 2:00 5K Mountain Run
- 2:10 Costume Contests (Most Original, Cutest, Scariest)
- 2:45 Dog Owner Look Alike
- 3:00 Cutest Trick
- 3:15 Demonstrations
- 3:30 Race Results, Raffle and Door Prize Drawings
- 4:00 End of Woof Fest

September 25, 26, and 27 will be Volcano Days. It is always fun to visit and chat with the vendors. Be sure to visit the Volcano museum. There are new indoor and outdoor displays. You won't want to miss them. If you haven't seen the diorama, you need to check it out. It is not a disappointment. The museum will be closing for the season at the end of October.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping with our events. Our meetings are the 2nd Thursday each month. Check our website for the times. We have 1:00 meeting and some months meet at 5:30 so those working can attend.

Have a great summer and see you at Mountwood Park!! Please share this newsletter with a friend.

"Just a reminder that watching birds is better for your health and well-being than watching news."
Unknown

Note from our editor: All the birds featured in this newsletter were recently seen at the Park. The photos were taken by Bill Edwards, Daniel Jonas, and Loren Sillaman.

I have always loved birds (all animals really) but have recently become fascinated with birds. Keep reading, and you will understand why.

Like me, are you one of many who love the *Jurassic Park* and *Jurassic World* movies? If you are, you have probably dreamed about seeing a real dinosaur?

You might be pleased, or maybe not, to know that you have been looking at real dinosaurs every time you looked at those cute birds at you feeder. I recently learned that birds are not just descendants of dinosaurs; they are living theropod dinosaurs that survived the mass extinction event 66 million years ago!

Theropods are a group of two-legged, meat-eating dinosaurs (the same group that includes, Tyrannosaurus Rex and Velociraptor).

Great White Egret at Mountwood

By Carolyn Naylor



At Mountwood, Bill Edwards took this photo of this Great White Egret. As you can tell, this bird is a long-legged wading bird.

Seeing a Great White Egret is widely viewed as a spiritual sign of patience, purity, and new beginnings. (*Per AI.*)

*"Tame birds sing of freedom.
Wild birds fly." — John Lennon*

Visitors to Museum

By Carolyn Naylor

I'm always telling people that when you volunteer you meet the most interesting, and

friendly, people. In August my husband Mike and I happened to stop at the museum and discovered a young couple from Leipzig,



Germany touring the museum. She was a former foreign exchange student and they were headed to Michigan to visit her host family.

The conversation was very enjoyable since we talked about Volcano and its' citizens, some of who were from Germany. Talking about life in Germany and the United States made it clear that we share many of the same problems. It drove home that we all are really connected.

During their visit at the Park, Johann proposed to Luise and she said yes!!! As they were leaving the museum they said they enjoyed the museum and would be back next year. We look forward to seeing them again.

Beautiful American Woodcock



This beauty was sighted by Daniel Jonas.

A woodcock is a short-legged bird that hides in forest thickets by day, where it uses its long bill to probe soil for earthworms. Their eyes are set far back on its head, allowing it to watch for danger even with its bill buried in the dirt.

Woodcocks are considered lucky omens, symbolizing resilience, intuition, and the joy of new beginnings.

“I think we consider too much the good luck of the early bird and not enough the bad luck of the early worm.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Shoutout to Rose Russell

By Carolyn Naylor



Rose Russell and Bill Butler

We are thrilled to announce that Rose Russell has completed her task of doing a Volcano timeline. Thanks to Rose and Bill Butler the timeline is on display and ready for you to stop by and see. It is a wonderful addition to the museum and I hope you will like it as much as I do.

Rose and Bill Butler are long time volunteers and members of Friends. They are good examples of volunteers, who don't expect to be paid for their work, but the truth is they are irreplaceable.

Museum Update

By Mike Naylor

During August we had 225 visitors. This is very good considering less than ideal weather—monsoon rains alternating with

heat advisories!! For the year to date, there have been 653 visitors.

Rose Russell and Bill Butler designed, donated, and installed a Volcano timeline that is aesthetically pleasing with font large enough for easy reading.

In the new room, we have placed a small table and chair for visitors wanting to review a Volcano postcard collection and other documents.

Civil War Veterans who Resided at Volcano adds an important dimension to the story of Volcano.

Colorizing Volcano black and white photographs helped me deal with the cold days of winter. The colorized photos remove many imperfections and add a vibrancy that is just not present with black and white photos. People also appear more “human.”

A 1905 photo taken by Brooks Pepper shows a very detailed, yet fuzzy, photo of a panoramic oil field scene. Colorizing this picture shows details not seen before. This is so clear that the Friends group approved the purchase of a large sign to be placed with the outside displays.

Reid Engine's New Home

By Mike Naylor



After 35 years of hibernation, a Reid Engine donated by the Don Piersol family has been awakened!

In the picture below is Jimmy Boston assisting Jeremy Cross and Bill Edwards to make this resurrection a reality.



The engine will “live” in its original engine house along with the tools that kept it operating!

The engine will power an eccentric pumpjack. An eccentric pumpjack, like the endless cable system, can pump multiple wells simultaneously via steel rods attached to a “turn table.” This system will be set up to pump three wells.

Civil War Veterans who Resided in Volcano, W. Va. (a new booklet written by Carolyn Naylor)

By Mike Naylor

When it comes to creating booklets and pamphlets, Carolyn Naylor is like a pit bull on steroids! She doggedly pursues the stories of the 25 men with connections to Volcano in 73 pages of clear text and pictures cementing this work into something that does not read like a typical history text—boring!

This booklet is written for a broad audience from Civil War historians to folks studying local history. She has created an index listing the veterans for the Confederate States of America and United States of America for individuals with a specific quest.

This work is available at the museum for only \$10 (tax included).

Red-Tailed Hawk Pays a Visit

By Carolyn Naylor

Loren Sillaman was so generous to share with us several absolutely beautiful pictures she took of a red-tailed hawk at Mountwood. As you can tell from the pictures, the hawk seemed to enjoy his day in the Park.



Note: When a red-tailed hawk visits you, it is widely viewed as a spiritual message

to gain a higher perspective, trust your intuition and focus on your goals. (per AI.)

A red-tailed hawk flies at a normal cruising speed of 20 to 40 miles per hour, but can reach a maximum speed of up to 120 miles per hour during a steep hunting dive. (Per AI)

Living off the Land

By Dawn Sturdevant

We Appalachians are very resourceful folks. For generations we've "lived off the land."

I grew up harvesting leeks (you call them ramps), and collecting sugar maple sap in the spring, picking wild berries in summer, and collecting hickory nuts in autumn. Now that I'm retired I'm learning about what is available locally.



A field of ramps.

Is anyone looking for paw paws? Can't say I'm a big fan, but I am thinking about trekking to Athens (Nelsonville this year) to the festival. I'd never tasted them until

last year. Perhaps I just got some 'bad ones' - I understand there are multiple varieties and taste often depends upon the location of where they are grown.

As I learn more about native plants, I am awed by all the edible plants around us. One I'm looking forward to tasting this fall is Spicebush, the red drupe (berries) is said to have a peppery taste similar to allspice. Last weekend I finally got to taste American persimmons - delicately delicious! Although I am not a mushroom fan, I have a friend who spends hours hunting them. Autumn Olive (also known as Japanese Silverberry) berries are wonderfully sour, just don't confuse them with Russian Olives.

I have planted several Serviceberry on my property, and am looking forward to when they are old enough to produce the sweet, almond and blueberry flavored berries.

I am hoping to finally get to Spencer this year October 8-11 for the Black Walnut festival. Although I truly wish I could find some Hickory nuts, their meat is worth the effort in drying and cracking them. I have a fudge recipe for them that is amazing.

If you have time, and want to have your own 'adventures' get outside and enjoy the amazing resources our environment offers. One word of caution though, make certain you definitely know what you are harvesting and eating since there

are a few toxic look-alikes.

When I visited the site shown below, it was very helpful since it lists 45 different plants you can forage in West Virginia.

<https://rockchasing.com/edible-plants-in-west-virginia/>

Adventure Camp at the Park

By Carolyn Naylor

On July 20 through July 24, from 9 am to 12 pm, eleven children came to Mountwood Park for Adventure Camp. They experienced five days of fun and learning.

Adventure Camp participants took part in a different outdoor each day. Some of the activities were:

- Building a bird feeder with the guidance of Bob Zellny.
- Seeing dogs demonstrate their skills for finding lost humans. Demonstrations were given by members of the Tyler County Search and Rescue
- Participating in discussions with members of The Appalachian Herpetological Society about reptiles and amphibians as well as going on searches to find them.
- Fishing. This is a favorite camp activity.
- Archery. The Mountain State Sportsmen's Association were

there to guide them through this exercise.

- Participated in discussions about trees, conservation and showing respect for our natural resources. They learned about the American Chestnut trees and what happened to them. Two American Chestnut trees were planted.



Adam Weaver demonstrating the correct and safest way to hold a snake.



Building feeders.



This picture is of the campers with one of the American Chestnut trees they planted.

Martin Dayhuff, Civil War Veteran & Volcano Resident

(Note: Martin Dayhuff's name sometimes appeared as Martin Dayhoff.)

Martin Dayhuff was a private in Company G of the 35th Ohio Infantry Regiment (nicknamed the "Persimmon Regiment"). Mustered in for three years of service on September 20, 1861, under the command of Colonel Ferdinand Vam Derveer, and mustered out at Chattanooga, Tennessee on September 23, 1864. The 35th Ohio Infantry mustered out of service at Chattanooga, Tennessee, August 26 – September 28, 1864. Veterans and recruits were transferred to the 18th Ohio Infantry. The

regiment lost a total of 208 men during service; five officers and 75 enlisted men killed or fatally wounded; 2 officers and 126 enlisted men died of disease. *(Per Wikipedia).*

When Martin Dayhuff was born on November 16, 1842, in Ohio, his father David Dayhuff was 45 and his mother Margaret (Phillips) Dayhuff was 37. Martin married twice. His first wife was Rebecca Casady. She was 20 years old when they married in Washington County, Ohio, on November 20, 1873. Rebecca was only 36 years old when she died in 1882.

Martin married his second wife, Nancy L. Whitehair on November 1, 1883 in Ritchie County. Nancy was 21 and Martin was 39. *(Note: When Nancy's first ancestors came over from Germany, the last name was Weishaar. Later it was changed to Whitehair.)*

Nancy and Martin had six children, four born in Volcano. Their children were:

(Iuka) Gertrude Dayhuff was born in Ritchie County, West Virginia on October 9, 1890. She married Doctor David Banker. She died on December 4, 1948 in Canton (Stark County), Ohio. She is buried in Canton at West Lawn Cemetery.

Arzonias M. Dayhuff was born in Volcano on May 23, 1887. She married Lisle S. Stackhouse in 1910 in Stark, Ohio. She was 75 years old when she

died on November 13, 1962 in Massillon, Ohio.

Jessie May Dayhuff was born in Volcano on June 9, 1890. She was 98 years old when she died on May 11, 1989.

Ruben Johnson Dayhuff born on May 11, 1893 in Volcano. Ruben was only 50 years old when he died on April 29, 1944, in Canton, Ohio.

Byron L. Dayhuff was born in 1905 in Ohio. (Note: Martin was 63 years old when Byron was born; his mother was 43.) Byron married Georgia R. Powelson on August 1, 1928. He lived in Canton, Ohio and was 55 years old when he died on November 2, 1960. He is buried in West Lawn Cemetery in Canton.

Cheslyn James Dayhuff was born on May 6, 1908 in Ohio. He was 80 years old when he died on April 14, 1989 in Dover, Ohio. He is buried in the Peoli Cemetery at Peoli (Tuscarawas County), Ohio.

Parkersburg State Journal, May 4, 1893 (WHITE OAK) – “Martin Dayhoff has opened his store with a full line of dry goods and groceries. His wife will continue her millinery trade in a room adjoining the store. We hope they do well as they are both good and upright citizens, well known, just and square in all their dealings.”

Parkersburg Daily State Journal, July 15, 1897 – “Dayhuff finished up an old well last week and is at this time getting a nice production. Martin has lots of pluck.”

The Parkersburg Daily State Journal, August 14, 1897 – “Martin Dayhuff commenced a well today on Boyd Run near Volcano. He now has four good producers on his home lease.”

The Parkersburg Daily State Journal, April 6, 1899 – “Martin Dayhuff and family are making preparations to move to Scio, Ohio.”

Martin was 76 years old when he died on December 22, 1918 and Nancy was 90 years old when she died on October 31, 1952. Both died in Canton, Stark County, Ohio.



Lawns, America's Largest Crop

By Dawn Sturdevant

I am having trouble believing it's September already - with all the rain and high temperatures I didn't really enjoy the summer. And even with all the rain (which created a lake in my yard that killed my raspberry bush) West Virginia remains under drought conditions and low water table levels.

Do you know what America's largest crop is? **Answer:** Lawns!

Quite frankly that fact angers me. In my opinion, lawns are a huge waste of time, energy, and water. Plus, we all know someone who feels the need to use chemicals. Our lawns are literally killing our natural environment and threatening our food supply with the alarming decrease of pollinators!

In the spring I joined the local Appalachian Foothills Chapter of Wild Ones and decided to participate in a national program called "Homegrown National Park". Why? Partly because I'm lazy and didn't want to mow as much, but also to support wildlife - birds, insects (especially the pollinators), other wildlife and plants. For more information go to:
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org>.

I was amazed at how many more butterflies, fireflies, hummingbirds, and other creatures this small 'wild' patch of ground brought in! And I downloaded the **free** application I Naturalist to help me identify what I was seeing!

One of the "weeds" that I now LOVE is a



much-maligned annual known as American Burnweed (*Erechtites hieracifolius*). Goldfinches also love it! So do bees, butterflies, moths (like the gorgeous common buckeye moth) and hummingbirds. It's leaves and buds are also edible used in salads, and it has medicinal properties too!

It is very 'opportunistic' sprouting up anywhere the seeds fly, but especially in "disturbed areas" like along a road, or a previously mown lawn. It helps repair those areas by assimilating nitrogen dioxide, so it acts as a "sink" for harmful air pollutants.

I have enjoyed my little area of wild so much that I intend to let more of my property be turned into a native meadow next year, and plan to utilize Native Flora seed (<https://Nativefloraseeds.org>) to plant more native species. I hope you will join me.

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