

Library News

From Friends of the Montgomery - Floyd Regional Library

Summer 2014 Edition

The 19th Annual New River Valley Garden Tour

Sponsored by Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd
Regional Library

*Seven lovely gardens
in the New River Valley*

*Saturday, July 12,
from 9 am—5 pm, rain or shine*



Advance tickets, maps, and brochures available June 1 at all branches of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. **Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 on the day of the tour**—available that day at any of the gardens.

For more information -
see inside, go to www.mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.html, or check us out on Facebook.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED *for the Garden Tour*

This popular event is a huge fundraiser for our libraries and requires a LOT of volunteer help. [Here's what you can do:](#)

Volunteer for a 2-hour shift on July 12.

You'll be selling and checking tickets at a shady table and directing people to the garden, which they can explore at their own pace. It's fun and a terrific way to support the tour. One garden this year will also need volunteers to direct parking. All volunteers are invited to a thank-you garden party on July 13th at the remarkable garden of Elissa Steeves on York Drive, hosted by the Friends of the Library.

To volunteer, please call or e-mail volunteer coordinator Bev Fleming at 951-1525 or bev_fleming@hotmail.com.

Don't forget to ... buy your tickets early, tell your friends, and bring guests.

From the desk of:

Paula Alston, Director, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library

Let's get ready to READ!

It's time for some summer fun as we get ready for the Summer Reading Program. We have something for everyone with great programs and fun incentives to keep you reading all summer long. Sign up at your branch library, join in the fun, come to a program and grab a book.



We have added more eBooks for you through OneClick Digital. We've used them for downloadable audio books for over a year now, but they have just added eBooks that can be downloaded to a Kindle Fire, phone or tablet. Take a look and see how easy it is to get eBooks from your library.

Please remember that the libraries are closed on Sundays through the summer. Sunday hours resume on September 7.

Check out our website at www.mfrl.org or follow the libraries on Facebook.

But, whatever you do, keep on reading!

Mary North, President, Montgomery County Friends of the Library

It's finally spring, time to put down your book and walk out to the garden. Save that book for a rainy day. Speaking of garden, Jo Brown says that the Spring Tour was a delight and well attended. The Garden Tour Committee is geared up for a spectacular Summer Tour on July 12th; you can read descriptions of the gardens on this year's tour in these pages. We can use volunteers to sit at the gardens; and our Hospitality committee can use volunteers to help with the after garden tour party. If you would like to help with the party on July 13th, please call Diane Wilson (961-4830).

On May 8th we had a fascinating speaker for our joint meeting with Floyd Friends. Peter Read spoke on the Civil War battle of Cedar Creek adding sidebars which helped to create a memorable picture of the event. Diane Wilson and Rochelle Johnson offered wonderful refreshments. I was happy to introduce two new members of our board: Don Creamer and Ellen Hall. Ellen has taken on the duties of Membership Chair and Don has agreed to help.

Please remember to check out our book sales enclaves in your library; I know in Christiansburg that we have a wonderful selection of children's books. Happy gardening and summer reading to everyone and visualize good weather for July 12!

Cathy Whitten, Library Branch Manager, Jessie Peterman Library

The Floyd Friends of the Library continue with their mission to support all that the library does, including Summer Reading Program. We are always looking for new members. We will be taking a summer break from our quarterly meetings but will meet again on **Thursday, October 9th at 3:30 PM** in the Community Room at Jessie Peterman Library.

We'd like to welcome Susan McCrea as a gold member this year and thank all of the members who support us so generously.

MFRL Summer Reading Program - Paws to Read

It's summertime, which means it's almost time for the school year to come to an end and for the yearly Summer Reading Program to begin! According to the American Library Association, the SRP began in the 1890s as a way to encourage reading during the summer. It continues today to provide many benefits, not the least of which is bringing families to the library for activities, programs and good fun! It isn't just for children! People of all ages are encouraged to register and log their reading/listening time, attend programs and be eligible to win a variety of prizes.

This year the SRP starts June 14 and ends August 2. The theme is **Paws to Read** and in support of that theme, some very *pawsome* programs have been scheduled at all the branches! Stay tuned for a full listing of programs! Below are a few highlights of professional performers for children ages ten and under.

The Balloon Lady is a high-energy show with music, magic, storytelling and balloon sculptures. Look for her to arrive at these times:

- Ø Blacksburg Library on Tuesday, June 24 at 3:00 p.m.
- Ø Christiansburg Library on Tuesday, June 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- Ø Jessie Peterman Library on Wednesday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m.
- Ø Meadowbrook Public Library on Wednesday, June 25 at 3:00 p.m.



The Red Herring Puppets will entertain youth of all ages with their award-winning retelling of Aesop's Fables. Save the dates!

- Ø Blacksburg Library on Thursday, July 3 at 10:00 a.m.
- Ø Christiansburg Library on Monday, June 30 at 10:00 a.m.
- Ø Jessie Peterman Library on Monday June 30 at 2:00 p.m.
- Ø Meadowbrook Public Library on Monday, June 30 at 6:00 p.m.

And **Darin Handy** will bring **God's Creatures Sanctuary** of live exotic animals for the education and enjoyment of those who attend.

- Ø Blacksburg Library on Tuesday, July 22 at 10:00 a.m.
- Ø Christiansburg Library on Wednesday, July 23 at 3:00 p.m.
- Ø Jessie Peterman Library on Wednesday, July 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- Ø Meadowbrook Library on Tuesday, July 22 at 3:00 p.m.

For more information about Friends of the Montgomery - Floyd Regional Library

visit <http://www.mfrlfriends.org/> to subscribe to announcements, fill out a membership form, view archived newsletters, and more.

2014 Board Members

Mary North, Montgomery President	Don Creamer and Ellen Hall, Membership	Jo Brown, Garden Tour
Steven Estrada, Vice President	Linda Spivey, Staff Liaison	Susan Day, Web Administrator
Susan Keith, Secretary	Diane Wilson and Rochelle Johnson,	Jeanette Staats, Newsletter Editor
Jane Wills, Treasurer	Hospitality	Kit Haggard, Floyd President

Upcoming Events at YOUR local libraries:

Looking Back at the Civil War - Civil War 150 (Blacksburg Library)

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History selected the Blacksburg Library to present programs in conjunction with the Civil War 150 project. Between June and September 2014, the Blacksburg Library will host public programming focused on themes of the Civil War.

A few upcoming programs are listed below.

April Danner, Historic Smithfield's Deputy Museum Administrator, will present **'The Battle of the Bridge' on Thursday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m.** She will describe a vivid account of the battle at the New River Bridge in Radford after the Confederates were defeated at Cloyd's Mountain on May 9, 1864.

Captain Jeffrey Brown, U.S. Navy (Retired) and his wife, Dottie, will describe **the life of a Civil War soldier Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.** They will talk about the rigors and demands of army life, the long hours of drill, inadequate food or shelter, disease, and many days spent marching on hot, dusty roads or driving rainstorms. They will display and describe numerous Artillery and Infantry artifacts, some which have been found in Cumberland County. Artifacts will be on display from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. prior to the presentation. Captain Brown served on six different combatant ships during his 27 year naval career. After his retirement he taught AP American and European History for 15 years at the Blacksburg High School.

Helen Beavers, a history buff from historic Fincastle, VA, with a passion for teaching little known facts about women who fought as soldiers during the Civil War, will portray Mollie Bell who disguised herself as Sgt. Bob Morgan in order to fight in the infantry. Mollie and her cousin, Mary, who also disguised herself as a man to fight in the infantry, were from Pulaski County. They fought in several key battles before being 'ousted' after the Battle of Cedar Creek in October, 1864. They were imprisoned briefly before being sent home in their uniforms.

Helen will join **Civil War re-enactors from the 24th VA New River Rifles, Saturday, July 26**, as they set up camp outside the library to demonstrate soldier life. Attendees will see how soldiers lived, the shelters they used, their food, weapons, uniforms, and learn how they kept prepared to meet the demands of a Civil War soldier. A history presentation will be available during the afternoon. The time TBD.

Courtyard Concert (Meadowbrook Library)

Come out **Thursday, July 10, 6:00 p.m. for an evening of bluegrass, country and gospel music performed by The New River Valley Boys.** You will enjoy being outside in the lovely Meadowbrook Center Courtyard listening to this one of a kind band. So bring a lawn chair and enjoy an outdoor concert. Light refreshments will be served. Co-sponsored by Montgomery County Parks and Recreation.

The Star Spangled Banner (Christiansburg Library)

Mark your calendars for **the 200th anniversary of The Star Spangled Banner at the Christiansburg Library on Sunday, September 14 at 3:00 p.m.** The program includes choral performances of patriotic and Americana songs by local choirs. The celebration will conclude with the Christiansburg High School Band performing The Star Spangled Banner while choirs and community members join in singing.

It was September 14, 1814 at Baltimore's Fort McHenry during a crucial victory over the British in the War of 1812 that Francis Scott Key wrote what was to become our national anthem. For more information about the national celebration: <http://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>

Here are the Gardens YOU can tour:



Julie Burger and Benjamin Corl (911 Draper Road, Blacksburg)

Surrounding a 2010 house in a historic neighborhood, this widespread garden has developed in stages largely from lawn, with the goals of growing produce, providing wildlife habitat, enjoying flowers, and minimizing mowing. What an eye-catching array has resulted on this corner lot! Trees and shrubs were the first order of business, followed by a number of raised beds, mostly for veggies. These are a prominent part of the front garden, placed there to maximize sunlight and still be attractive, with incorporated trellises of various materials. More recently, small plants and flowers have created large waves of color, and a friendly in-house competition has spurred dual beds in the front yard. This year's project is a pond and shrub garden—come to see these & wonder what next year will bring!

Victoria and Steve Cochran (2175 Maple Lane, Blacksburg)

When Steven and Victoria Cochran married, they knew they wanted three things: a view of the mountains to inspire them, a south facing slope to support their gardening habit, and a woodland stream to sit by at day's end. They found it all, except for the stream. In the dozen years since, their hillside has become crisscrossed with rock lined gravel paths, terraced with pocket gardens, and softened by the addition of an Asian shade garden, with a whimsical fairy garden as a surprise. A meandering stream and waterfall now grace the hillside. The acre plus of summer flowers and shrubbery is accented with fanciful art and found objects, including a dragon previously bewitched into a tangle of tree roots. Since 2004, the Cochrans have celebrated their anniversary by planting a tree to represent their love for the garden and their life together, including a Japanese Silver Bell and Chinese Fringetree, each with a story they will happily share with you.

Terry Colpitts (2902 Stradford Lane, Blacksburg)

Distinguished by its widespread use of natural materials and multiple garden styles, this spacious lot bordered by a Stroubles Mill walking path is a testament to 25 years of heavy amendments, willingness to try different methods and plants, loyalty to composting, and lack of pesticides. Pine pathways divide sections in the natural area, while a lawn flows around the back deck. Other plantings surround the house and edge the border of the path, creating a pleasing landscape. Collected leaves have enriched many beds, rock gardens, and flowering shrubs, as well as saving the life of an ancient oak. Mixed plantings of flowers and vegetables feature complementary colors and textures, with fragrant plants being especially valued. Hard work and attention to microenvironments have created an eclectic and ambitious garden.

Lynne and Paul Knox (2675 Woodland Hills Drive, Blacksburg)

Quoting the Knoxes, *"This is a garden that has gradually evolved without planning over about 20 years. All the soil has been trucked in as the house-site has basically been blasted out of limestone. What is grown in it largely stands up to deer, skunk, groundhogs and raccoons (and on one memorable weekend an escaped pig). The animals have open access, as fencing is not possible because of the configuration of the beds....This is not a neat area—if a weed looks fine where it grows, then it usually stays because anything that does not get eaten is a bonus."* But this modest description belies their symphony of trees, paths, beds of perennials, pots of annuals, gardens of herbs and vegetables, and much more. All of these blend seamlessly with the gray house and decks that they surround on a sunny hillside. Ingenious deer barriers and large rock outcroppings are all incorporated into a wonderful tapestry of form and color.

Janet Niewald and David Crane (1449 Luster's Gate Road, Blacksburg)

Though they continue to be awed by our natural, robust, botanical biodiversity, these Midwesterners—painter and ceramicist—have evolved since 1982 into mature gardeners working toward low maintenance, rich texture, year-round interest, and awareness of water use. *"Sometimes I think that gardening is a very odd thing to do.... Why do I feel compelled to boss plants around?"* asks Janet. The artistic results answer that question. These gardeners' three priorities are the natural site, their individual studio and construction needs, and the wonderful mountain view, which they've left untouched. Their house floats between two huge running rock ledges, with David's studio to the north and Janet's to the south. In 2002, to deter deer they enclosed the space between studios. This cleverly fenced area has become the fullest display in a varied garden where art interacts with nature in the larger compound of house, studios, and barn.



More garden descriptions located on the back ...

Garden Tours continued ...

Amy and John Ogburn (1732 Keister's Branch Road, Blacksburg)

This expansive, diverse garden in the Prices Fork area surrounds a passive solar home and is itself bordered by mature woods and a polypropylene deer fence that allows many hundreds of plants, shrubs, and trees to thrive. Starting with foundation plantings, a fruit orchard, and a vegetable garden, John over the last 27 years has created additional areas, including perennial beds, mixed shrub and perennial borders, an English cottage style garden, a woodland garden, a wildflower area, and an alpine rock garden. A small pond attracts dragon flies and other insects, while the abundant plants draw birds and butterflies. John also grows orchids, which spend the summer outdoors in the dappled shade of oak trees. Thoughtful landscaping highlights this plant-lover's paradise.

Brenda Winkel and Jim Westwood (3715 Millstone Ridge, Blacksburg)

Brenda Winkel and Jim Westwood built their home in an old hay field in 2001 and have been developing their thoughtful landscape ever since. Their guiding principle has been to create and sustain a space that gives a maximum yield of both produce and enjoyment with a minimum input of energy. The Dutch-inspired property features a medley of colorful perennials in a defined zone around the house, with a goldfish pond and wisteria arbor for added interest. The vegetable/fruit garden contains many perennial crops, including strawberries, asparagus, rhubarb, and grapes, with raspberries, blueberries, and currants protected by a bird-proof enclosure. Designed for simple upkeep, the fenced area features low-maintenance paths and self-closing gates. The whole landscape invites children to play and adults to relax and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. In keeping with sustainable living the house is powered primarily by solar energy, with solar thermal panels on the rear roof and photovoltaic panels in the distant field.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Diane Wilson, Hospitality Committee chair, is looking for **volunteers to help with the Thank You party** FOL will host on **Sunday, July 13**, for everyone who helped with the Garden Tour. Planning has just begun for that, but we know we will need a variety of sweet and savory finger foods that will hold up in hot weather, and several people who can help serve the food and beverages. *Please call Diane (961-4830) for more information and/or to volunteer.*

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