

Notes from Evergreen



Quarterly Update

- EHC offers summer **Science Discovery Camp**
- EHC offers **Evergreen Artist Workshops**
- EHC and Home Ground host **Spring Open House**

EHC Announces 2013 Spring and Summer Schedule

The Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Foundation has several special events and programs that it is offering to the community in 2013, including the following:

Spring Science Field Trips. As a continuation of its fall 2012 county-wide environmental education programs, the EHC is hosting 7th grade Life Science, high school Earth/Space Science, and Career Center field trips for students. Students participate in a full-day field trip to the EHC that is full of fun outdoor activities that reinforce lessons in the classroom. As always, local college students will observe and/or assist EHC instructors and receive valuable field experience and credentials for their resumes.

Professional Development. Local educators are invited to participate in summer EHC training programs that include “Let’s Take It Outdoors”, one day workshops that help teachers to be more comfortable with outdoor learning; “Environmental Education Curricula and Issue Investigation”, a three day workshop that includes certification in three award-winning environmental education curricula (Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree); and “Chesapeake Classroom: Allegany”, a week-long workshop tailored to Western Maryland watersheds and their relationship to the Chesapeake Bay.

Science Discovery Camp. Campers ages 8 to 12 are invited to attend two one week day camp sessions during which campers become science sleuths and learn about our ecosystems, how species depend upon one another, and how to plant a vegetable garden. Scholarships are available. For more information, see the back page of this newsletter.

Evergreen Artist Workshops. Local artist Maggie Pratt will be conducting workshops that include exploring nature at the EHC and then expressing their discoveries on canvas. Experienced and new artists are welcome to participate. For more information, see page three of this newsletter.

Spring Gardening Open House. On Saturday June 1 from 1 to 4pm, the EHC Foundation and Home Ground (a local organization supporting sustainable use of land and water resources) will be hosting a gardening open house that will feature presentations and demonstrations on topics such as **gardening for wildlife**. The event will also debut the new EHC Heritage Hoop House, a high tunnel greenhouse designed to extend the growing season. Tours of the Evergreen Museum and Barn will also be available.

For more information on any of the above events, call 301-687-0664, email foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org, or visit our web site at www.evergreenheritagecenter.org.

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The Historical Significance of the Evergreen Property

The Evergreen Heritage Center has been listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties since 1976 (as Winter's Stone House) and is submitting an application for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The historical significance of the property is its role in and contribution to the successful settlement of western Allegany County beginning in the late 1700s when it was part of Washington County and still designated on maps as former Shawnee land. At that time, Flintstone, in the eastern part of the County, was home to the majority of the County's early settlers, and Cumberland was in its infancy with fewer than 35 families.

The first settler on what would become known as Federal Hill/Evergreen (and later the Evergreen Heritage Center) was Edward Grimes, who came west from Frederick in 1783. Grimes and his family built the original house and barn (see the rendering by local artist Angela Hedderick shown below). Grimes had been a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, was a prominent farmer and businessman, and in 1794 was one of the County's first commissioners, appointed to build what would become Route 36 from Cumberland to Mount Savage. Grimes' son-in-law Michael Oswalt, who had migrated south from Pennsylvania, was also an early County commissioner and owned one of the area's first saw mills. Oswalt inherited and briefly owned the property before selling it to William Ridgeley in 1819.

Ridgeley, whose family had migrated to Western Maryland from the Eastern Shore, built a second house on the property, on the other side of Federal Hill overlooking the growing town of Mount Savage. Ridgeley owned ten slaves, was one of the first elected County Commissioners, filed the first layout of the town of Frostburg, and fostered the partnership between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal that would significantly expand transportation to the region. Since he did not reside in the original Grimes house, Ridgeley sold that section of Federal Hill to George Winter in 1822.

Winter had also migrated west from Frederick and owned one of the area's first woolen mills as well as an inn on what became the National Road. Winter expanded the Grimes house to create a large plantation manor. After Winter's death in 1826, his son George Winter Jr. continued to live at the manor and also served as a County Commissioner. After the Civil War, in 1869, when the Winter family could no longer run the plantation, they sold it to their neighbors, the Trimble family.

The Trimbles had migrated north from the Shenandoah Valley in the late 1700s and had settled on Federal Hill near Edward Grimes. Their acquisition of the Winter property created one of the area's largest farms, encompassing over 1100 acres on Federal Hill, including what is now the Evergreen Heritage Center. The Trimbles remodeled the Winters house creating a large Victorian mansion. They also continued the Hill's history of farming, and participated in the region's booming coal industry, which was a key factor in its economic development.

These early settlers of Allegany County, who migrated from Frederick, Pennsylvania, the Eastern Shore, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, provide an opportunity to see the evolution of the Allegany County's Federal Hill from its days as Shawnee land to its role today in conservation stewardship, historic preservation, and education at the Evergreen Heritage Center.



EHC is on Facebook

Want to stay updated with news from the EHC? Check out our Facebook page! Just click "like" to see occasional updates, news, and interesting links. You can also post on our wall!
www.facebook.com/evergreenheritage



Evergreen Artist Workshops

Last fall, the EHC Foundation successfully conducted a pilot of its new **Environmental Arts** program, which offered participants the opportunity to attend a workshop conducted by local artist Maggie Pratt, learn about sunflowers, and create oil paintings of these beautiful plants. Participants requested that the EHC continue this program in which **both budding and experienced artists** may learn more about our environment and artistically express their experiences.

As a result, in 2013, the EHC Foundation will be offering a series of **Evergreen Artist Workshops**. The first of three spring workshops is *The Trees of Evergreen* (April 21). This workshop will explore the heritage evergreens planted at the EHC over 100 years ago. Participants will receive instruction on basic sketching, oil techniques, composition, etc. and engage in a brief “walk and talk” during which they will learn the history of these majestic trees and draw sketches that will augment photos provided by the instructor. Participants may then create oil paintings of their chosen subject.

The second spring workshop is *Macro Nature* (May 19). This workshop will teach participants how to use small discoveries to create larger abstract paintings. Attending artists will have the opportunity to collect blossoms, leaves, stones, pinecones, and other natural treasures; to develop drawings of these elements; and then to create a painting to share what they have discovered.

The third spring workshop is *The Evergreen Landscape* (June 16). This workshop will explore landscape painting, including its role in historical preservation. Attending artists may then create a painting from a variety of photos of the Evergreen Heritage Center landscape.

All workshops will be conducted by artist Maggie Pratt, a member of the EHC Foundation Board. Workshops, which include all artist supplies, are subsidized by a grant from the **Allegany Arts Council** and attendee fees (\$60/workshop or \$150 for all three workshops). Three more workshops are planned for fall 2013 and will integrate creative writing with painting and collage. For more information, call 301-687-0664 or visit our website www.evergreenheritagecenter.org.



Participants enjoying last fall's Environmental Arts Workshop



Science Discovery Camp

The **Evergreen Heritage Center** is pleased to offer its 2013 summer Science Discovery Camp, providing educational, fun outdoor learning experiences for young people ages 8 to 12. Camp activities reinforce science concepts taught during the school year and engage students with hands-on fun and exploration. Camp sessions are conducted at the Evergreen Heritage Center in Mount Savage by our highly trained education personnel. **Participants may attend one or both camp sessions:**

Safari Sleuths (July 8 to 12, 9-12 daily).

Discover the diversity of our local ecosystems! Explore our forest, fields, and wetlands, learn to identify different plants and animals, and discover the relationship between species, the food and water sources needed by each to survive, and Mother Nature's medicine chest. Keep a journal of your sleuthing activities, conduct water testing experiments, help create a food web mural, and make and take home a recycled project.



Garden Detectives (July 15 to 19, 9-12 daily).

Explore the garden ecosystem, uncover the mystery of how plants grow, and learn the importance of clean water and healthy soil. Discover how to plan and then plant a kitchen vegetable garden and how to "grow soil" through composting. Maintain a detective's journal, conduct soil testing experiments, work with fellow detectives to create a mural of your findings, and take home a garden detective kit that includes seeds to plant.

Camp fees are \$175 per week and do not include transportation. To register, or for more information on the camp and camp scholarships, email foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org or call 301-687-0664.



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