

Smoke Signals



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME LVII

October 2017

NO. 7

President's Note

—Ben Kirkup
moyaonepresident@gmail.com

The Atlantic hurricane season is in full swing. The grim news from afar is distressing; destruction and calamity. However, in the Moyaone, we informally commemorate Hurricane Sandy at the Commons' pavilion and cookshack, the timbers of which were largely lumbered from that storm. This connection between the storm and the pavilion is not readily apparent; but it is enduring. In retrospect, regional weather disasters do frequently result in both visible destruction and private joys. Comforting memories of neighbors huddled around a fireplace during an extended power outage, the bonhomie of pulling a vehicle out of flood-induced mud, or delivering supplies to someone stranded are all silver linings from the wallop of storms.

The same events, however, can bring authentic disaster. Folks have found themselves materially stricken; a limb crushes a car, pipes freeze in the house, the roof proves unsound. Finances unravel, jobs are lost, relationships spring a leak. The "disaster" is seen in how these misfortunes seem to cluster. It is possible to see in this distinction a fable of preparedness—as in the ant and the grasshopper. Despite the wisdom of common observations about personal readiness, all of us bear burdens of the present not readily laid aside. There ever are current weaknesses, root, trunk, and branch, from earlier storms.

On those events that develop lasting joy out of each storm, the common thread is that many neighbors were ready, materially and

in frame of mind, to cheerfully and immediately assist those others who suffered. This is not the lesson of communal preparedness—a common pot of rainy-day funds and central administration—but instead of distributed preparedness. From the latter springs the ability of individuals to self-organize around a common vision of mental and material readiness to assist, thus perpetuating an ongoing shared stock of goodwill and gratitude.

No one person could have had the vision of those trees as the pavilion, but only the several. And then, even a single tree would have been too much for a lone individual to fell, transport, and shape. Finding the potential in frozen pipes is perhaps less obvious, and ultimately even more private in meaning than the pavilion. Yet, a moment of warm solidarity, neighbors mending plumbing together ankle deep in bone-chilling water, can become something precious to be recalled in subsequent crises. That same moment, alone, is not similarly full of possibility.

A final reflection—again on network news. Viewing the caring responses of others in response to disaster blunts the distressing emotional edge of the calamity itself; absent an awareness of the concurrent virtuous deeds, all that is left in the face of televised disaster is a sense of helplessness. It is too easy to be shaken by distant events portrayed vividly and ignore the ways that those communities are actually responding, even growing. An energy-draining bias towards letting negative news overly affect can be overcome in part by refocusing some attention from those dire and panicked reports, and instead, attend to neighbors' needs and prepare for opportunities to serve locally.

Getting Relief—Or Not— From Air Traffic Noise

—John Mitchell

Seeking ways to reduce air traffic noise south of National Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has begun a series of work sessions during August–October. The push was begun by groups in Virginia affected by noise from departures, but after Accokeek and Fort Washington both gained representation on the Metropolitan Washington Airport Administration Working Group (MWAA-WG), and noting that those of us on this side of the river are bombarded by noise from arrivals, a top FAA representative repeatedly stated that it made sense to work on departures (south flow) and arrivals (north flow) at the same time. We formed a committee representing both sides of the river, and agreed to a plan to keep departures following the river a bit further south nearer Fort Washington, before breaking off in various directions, and to have arrivals line up over the Potomac further down river instead of right over the Moyaone.

“Maximum time over water” is generally a good thing, since the greatest noise impact is directly below the aircraft. Then came the bad news: For no reason that I consider valid, FAA staff announced that they would only be looking at departures, not arrivals. They claimed that they learned of our need for relief only recently—a claim that is completely false.

What do we need to do?

1. As your representative on the MWAA-WG, I am

making a big stink about this. There are two more work sessions to go, so they could still be instructed to deal with arrivals—those are the primary culprits. I’m pulling together documentation showing that they were in fact well aware of the arrival complaints from our community before anyone from Accokeek or Fort Washington was on the Working Group.

2. Accokeek and Fort Washington representatives are considering a broad east-of-the-river meeting for those affected, inviting FAA representatives as well. Other affected communities (including Fort Washington) are not as well networked as we are, so we need to find ways to engage people from other communities in the process.

3. Various groups in the Moyaone have been meeting to try to deal with this. All efforts are welcome, but a bit of coordination helps. The Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition has a website (now administered by Kent Hibben) that can serve as a hub. Visit the site, seek out information,

and leave your e-mail address. <http://www.somdfairskies.com/>.

4. Keep reporting the noise. At my request, the Noise Complaint Form, at <https://viewpoint.bksv.com/dca3>, now allows you to list more than one reason for the complaint. Report regularly. Check the “remember my details” box to make things quicker next time, but be sure to mix it up in the “comments” section so you don’t sound like a robot.

5. To pinpoint a particularly loud or low-flight aircraft, note the exact time of day and, at least an hour later, go to <http://webtrak5.bksv.com/dca> and see which airplane was overhead at the noted time. The data will show you the altitude, and identify the aircraft type, airline and flight number. You can then particularize the complaint.

6. **Stay tuned for more community initiatives as we try to press for solutions.** Contacting elected representatives is fine, but changes to air traffic routes and procedures requires adherence to existing federal regulations. Accordingly, we are also trying to maximize our participation within the regulatory process—a process that requires the FAA to listen to us.

7. **Encourage Attorney General Brian Frosh to take up our cause.** The *Capital Gazette* has reported that Governor Hogan has asked the Attorney General to sue the FAA. See http://www.capitalgazette.com/news/for_the_record/ac-cn-hogan-bwi-lawsuit-0913-story,amp.html. We will be in touch with Mr. Frosh’s office to make certain that he understands our perspective.

Moyaone Association Board

<i>President</i>	Ben Kirkup MoyaonePresident@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Jon Gillespie MoyaoneVicePresident@gmail.com
<i>Comptroller</i>	Jamie Kucab MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Karen Hoagberg MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com
<i>Director-at-Large</i>	John Mitchell MoyaoneDirectorAtLarge@gmail.com.

SEND NOTICES FOR SMOKE SIGNALS TO:

Ruth Gaumont, 301-292-1189; moyaoneneeds@gmail.com

Next DEADLINE: Oct. 30 for Nov. 2017 issue of *Smoke Signals*



Students participate in farm activities at the National Colonial Farm.
Photo: Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park.

Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park to Hold Autumn Activities

—Deanna Rishell, Visitor Outreach Coordinator

Events take place at the National Colonial Farm, Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek.

Homeschool Day: A Day in the Life

Thurs., Oct. 19, 10 am–12 pm. Admission: \$8 per child age 3 and over, 1 free parent with paying child

Spend the day in the life of the Boltons! Residents of the National Colonial Farm need your help tending to their 1770 tobacco farm. Discover the sights, sounds, and tastes of the 18th century while learning about heritage breed farm animals, crops and gardens, cooking, and try your hand at colonial chores. Homeschoolers will make and take home a crafty keepsake to remember a day in the life of a colonist. Register online (<https://accokeekfoundation.org/events/homeschool-day-a-day-in-the-life/>) or email education@accokeek.org for more information.

Modern Homesteading: Apple Cider Making

Sat., Oct. 21, 1–4 pm. Registration: \$30, Members \$25

Learn the art and history of cider making with representatives from ANXO, DC's "first licensed winery since prohibition." In addition you'll learn how to construct your own cider press with everyday items. It makes us thirsty just thinking about it! Register online (<https://accokeekfoundation.org/events/modern-homesteading-apple-cider-making/>) or email info@accokeek.org for more information.

Hocus Pocus–Palooza: Oct. 27, 28, & 29

Member's Only Escape Farm: Witch Way Out?

Fri., Oct. 27. Two time slots available: 7–8 pm or 8:30–9:30 pm. Maximum of 10 participants in each time slot. Must be a member to register, but members are welcome to bring family and friends. Registration: \$25/ person

A special treat (or is it a trick?) for Accokeek Foundation members, join us and experience ESCAPE FARM at night. What is even more fun than getting trapped in a room with your favorite people? Getting trapped by a witch on the National Colonial Farm, with only an hour to fix your time machine and escape 1770. Solve interactive puzzles, complete challenging games, and search the farm for clues before your time runs out. Warning: The farm is very dark at night, so please bring a flashlight. This event may be scary for small children. Participants should arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of their tour for check in and orientation. Refreshments provided. Call (301) 283-2113 or email info@accokeek.org to register.

Twilight Tours

Sat., Oct. 28. Tours leave every 15 minutes, 7–9 pm. Registration: \$10

There's something spooky happening on the Bolton farm this October—ghosts, witches, and other spirits are making their presence known. Join us for an evening tour of the National Colonial Farm and experience the supernatural in colonial Maryland. Twilight Tours will take you back to 1770 and introduce you to some of Maryland's most unsavory characters, and the superstitions colonists developed to combat their fears. Tours have limited space, so reserve your spot now. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to start of your tour to check in at the Visitor Center. Light refreshments will be available for purchase. Warning: this event may be scary for small children. Call (301) 283-2113 or email info@accokeek.org to register.

The Magic Garden

Sun., Oct. 29, 11 am–2 pm. Registration: \$5 admission, \$5/craft

Hogwarts, schmogwarts. Piscataway Park is the place to learn about *magic*. Join us and explore the magical plants of this special place. Skip herbology for an enchanting plant walk, make your own special potion in the Museum Garden, and design your very own elder wand at the Visitor Center. And don't forget to visit the National Colonial Farm to see what's bubbling in their cauldron, and dip your own candles worthy of the "great hall." Refreshments available. Costumes are encouraged! Call (301) 283-2113 or email info@accokeek.org to register.



Photos: Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Annual Oktoberfest at Hard Bargain Farm

—Varya Zhigilei, Communications & Marketing Mgr.

The Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) invites everyone to come celebrate the harvest season at its annual Oktoberfest at Hard Bargain Farm on Sat., Oct. 7, 1–6 pm.

This year's festival will again feature performances by the Bavarian dance group Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein, delicious German food and beer, home-made delicacies from our country store, and old-fashioned hay wagon rides to the Potomac River. Children can meet our barnyard animals, have a chance to press a glass of fresh apple cider, and make their own unique crafts in our historic cabin. Join us for a day of music, food, and gorgeous fall scenery. Get your tickets before September 22 to take advantage of the \$12 early bird special! Free admission for children 12 and under.

General Admission: \$15, Tickets purchased at Gate; Online AFF Member Special: \$10, Member special available online only. Online tickets: <http://bit.ly/oktoberfest-hbf>

Hard Bargain Farm is located at 2001 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek. All proceeds support AFF environmental education programs. Tickets at entrance and food are cash only, please. The event is held rain or shine.

Events at the AFF Hard Bargain Amphitheater

Theatre in the Woods—Oct. 6–21. *The Weir*

The Hard Bargain Players will present Conor McPherson's haunting play, *The Weir*. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm. With roots in Irish folklore, the play examines missed opportunity and the loneliness that results. Directed by Brooke L. Howells.

In a small bar called The Weir in a rural town in Ireland, three local men are settling down for the night, enjoying good beer and company. Their normal routine is shaken up when their friend Finland enters the bar and introduces them to Valerie, an attractive woman from Dublin who has just moved into an old haunted house in the town. As the night (and the amount of liquor) progresses, each local from the bar starts to tell a tale of ghostly happenings in the town. What starts as innocent braggadocio between the men turns into a real fright when Valerie reveals a real, haunted tale of her own from the past.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors and AFF members. Cash and checks accepted (no credit cards). The Hard Bargain Players perform rain or shine. Shows are only canceled in the event of severe weather conditions. To make a reservation, fill in the form on the website (<https://hbplayers.wordpress.com/ticket-and-performance-information/>) under "Ticket Information & Reservations" or send an email to hbplayersboxoffice@gmail.com. Please be sure to include the show, date of performance, and number of tickets you are reserving

Film in the Woods—Sat., Oct. 28. *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*

Midnight showing! Grab your fishnets, and jump to the Hard Bargain Amphitheater's feature presentation of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Time warp back to the 1970s and shimmy the night away to the voices of Magenta, Frank N Furter & Riff Raff. Doors open at 11:30 pm. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. *No one under 18 permitted*. Prop bags will be sold for \$10 and participation is encouraged! Advance reservations strongly advised (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/films-in-the-woods-the-rocky-horror-picture-show-tickets-35759842652?aff=efbeventtix>).

Refreshments are available. Performances are outdoors, so comfortable, weather appropriate clothing and bug spray are highly recommended!

Benjamin F. Collins

July 8, 1940 — September 12, 2017



Ben's favorite homily was "I've gone to look for myself. If I should return before I get back, keep me here."

Ben Collins took a fascinating path through life. Born in Chattanooga, Tenn. to Benjamin, a Baptist minister, and Nancy Jones, an educator who shared a love of learning with Ben and his younger brother Jim, he approached life as an adventurer, explorer, and seeker of knowledge who shared what he knew.

Ben graduated from Carson Newman College in 1962 with a degree in history, which became a lifelong passion, and headed east to teach high school in Prince George's County, Md. There he met his wife and lifelong partner, Judy. Together the couple joined the Peace Corps, and from 1964 through 1967 served in Turkey, where they became immersed in the fascinating history and culture of the region.

Upon their return Ben joined the staff of Surrattsville High School, where he taught challenging and demanding college-level social studies classes. His students immediately embraced him, both as a teacher and as a kind, caring friend. During the summer months in the 1970s and 1980s, Ben led some 20 groups of students on study trips abroad to the Mediterranean, including Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Egypt, sharing his immense knowledge of history and culture as well as his inquisitive desire to learn.

In 1983 Ben was honored by the Washington Post as a recipient of the first Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. And in 1987 he was featured in the Washington Magazine article "How to Change a Life: Great Teachers Have a Gift." Along the way he earned a Masters in Area Studies at Georgetown University, and enjoyed all that Washington, DC had to offer.

Ben shared his love of travel, learning, and enjoying life with his sons, Chris and David. Among their best memories are trips to the Capitals and Bullets games accompanied by their favorite friends and their father. Who else would take a bunch of elementary kids to a game alone?

Ben truly believed and taught that, in the words of Harry S. Truman, "for our day and our children's day, education must become a continuing adventure in human understanding, shared by all."

When retirement time arrived, Ben and Judy chose Pagosa Springs, Colo. as their home, where many friends and students visited and continued to keep in touch. Ben had lots of time to read, to enjoy the new friends he made there, to volunteer as a docent at the Fred Harman Art Museum, and, above all, to continue his search for knowledge. His years were a rich tapestry with friends from all walks of life, whom he always treated with dignity while accepting and enjoying their individual differences.

Ben leaves behind his wife Judy, sons Chris (wife Maria) and David (wife Sandi and granddaughters Christina and Damia), and his brother Jim. He will be dearly missed by all of those who called him Mr. Collins, Dad, Grand Daddy and Gentle Ben. As the sign on Ben's desk says, "Keep smiling, it makes people wonder what you are up to."

The Collins family made their home for over 30 years on West Ridge Road, and are planning a memorial gathering for Ben in Accokeek for Fall, 2018.

—James C. Turner



A view of Mt. Vernon in late August shows the damage done by heavy rains earlier that month. The collapse of about 100 feet of brick wall in front of the mansion required repairs to the wall and lawn. Photo: Karen Hoagberg.



Swim Season 2017 is in the Books!

With coaches Ben Juricic and Carly Evans, the 2017 Accokeek Gators team finished the division in second place. It was bittersweet in that there was only a four-point deficit that resulted in the one loss for the team. The team went 5-1 and had an impressive number of younger swimmers. Both our boys' and girls' medley relays broke team records. Several Moyaone residents went to All-Stars this year, including Joseph and Johannes Shotwell, Brady and Kyla, Ashley Gruell, and Garrett Sullivan.

As always, the team truly appreciates the support of the Moyaone community!