

MOUNTAIN VOICES



Volume 16, Issue 4

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

April 2015

The mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is . . .

. . . to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly

From the President THE PLAN

In four short months (or an eternity, depending on who you are asking!), a new president will be guiding the MSSA Board of **Directors**. I don't know who that will be, but I do know that he or she will have something I did not: A strategic plan for our Assembly.



that they reflect a desire to preserve our unique character and heritage. I hope it also reflects the need to strategically position ourselves so that future

generations will be attracted to what we have to offer here. I personally **don't** believe it

can be found anywhere else.

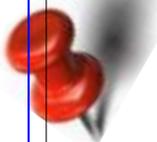
In previous months, parts of the plan have been approved by the Board, but in March, the entire document was approved. The entire 58-page document can be found in the member section of our website, and we will also make copies for your reading pleasure available at the library **at the Woman's Association**. The executive summary and goals and strategies that will be implemented in the coming months and years under the guidance of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board are included here in Mountain Voices.

I hope everyone who reads these goals and strategies will agree

The plan is aimed to keep us on **track, reminding us of where we've been, but also of where we want to be in 10 years and beyond...**a thriving intentional community with a viable, meaningful and attractive mission that draws people and families who will support it.

Each of us is a part of this plan. Both in its creation and its future implementation. We share the responsibility of seeing that its intentions are carried forward. Read it, understand it, and hold leadership accountable for staying true to what has been articulated and approved.

(continued on page 2)



2015
MSSA
Calendar

April 10-12 Trails & Trilliums
May 9-10 Sewanee
Graduation Weekend
May 23 Board Meeting 9AM
June 7 Season Opens
June 20 Board Meeting 9AM

Mountain Voices
Ann Ewing, editor
Martha Ann Pilcher, design/
layout

Deadline to submit items for the next issue is Apr. 25th. Send articles to aewing62@gmail.com

From the President

(continued from page 1)



Predicting the future is not possible, but being mindfully prepared with a plan and a purpose can help us weather what comes next. Your dedication and passion for what MSSA is and its future demonstrates that it is in good hands for the next generation. Thank you for helping with the journey of creating this guide for our future.

*Kent Ballow,
President*

Cottages Available for Transfer:

#6	Windcrest	\$550,000
#98	Idlehour	\$275,000
#129	Hallelujah	\$375,000
#136	Endevor	\$549,000
#146	Boutcher	\$595,000



ARC Project Submission Deadlines



Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trust for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the General Manager. Projects submitted by the following dates will be reviewed and presented at the board meeting following the submission.

May 1 July 15 September 30 January 15

The ARC is available throughout the year to advise members on their project planning prior to submission of a request. Not sure if you need ARC approval? Check with the General Manager first.

Archives 2015



The 2015 season is fast approaching, and the Archives Committee is working on the history of the cottages we all love. We have scanned the original lease book and updated the

lease transfer book to 2015! Our next project is to record the history of each cottage as best we can and begin to photograph the *inside* of the cottages. If you would like to take the photographs, please send them to Morgan Merrill (morganvmerrill@gmail.com). Or let us know and we can photograph your cottage for you this summer. Come to the archives this summer and learn about your cottage!

As you are packing your suitcases for the trip to the mountain, remember to bring wedding announcements, birth announcements, obituaries, Christmas cards, and photographs to put in your family box.

“We inherit from our ancestors gifts often taken for granted. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise.”(Edward Sellner).

Morgan Merrill, Archives Chair



12th Annual Trails & Trilliums

There's still time to make your plans to head to the mountain for Trails and Trilliums.

This year's event will feature a range of activities and events, and there really is something for everyone. Linda Parrish, festival chair, says keynote speaker Richard Louv's groundbreaking focus on "saving our children from nature deficit disorder" is a running theme. The festival will open Friday evening with a Children's Choir Concert of Appalachian music, featuring students from 10 areas schools from three counties. Children's nature-themed artworks will be on display as well. On Saturday, expanded activities for children will be offered.

ART for the PARK will continue to be a significant part of the festival with an Opening Night Benefit where works by the 2015 Featured Artists will be exhibited and sold. All weekend artists and vendors will be selling their wares, and the ever-popular native plant sale will continue to provide a wide range of great natives for landscaping.

Saturday and Sunday will be filled with guided hikes, wildflowers, workshops, programs of interest to gardeners and naturalists, a new garden tour, speakers, and more.

New Platform Opportunities & Platform Basics

This coming summer brings new opportunities with additional funding provided through the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Fund (MSSA Fund) that was approved last summer through the unrestricted budget. The MSSA Fund enables all to enjoy a wider range of speakers, many of whom are featured on Thursday evenings. In many cases, the MSSA Fund is paired with an existing fund to further enhance programs that include performances and special events, in addition to lectures.

Much gratitude goes to Margaret and Steve Rixham who so generously initiated the Program Enhancement Fund to which MSSA friends and members are also invited to

contribute. This type of visionary support is sure to enhance and expand continuing programming that will support the MSSA mission in future years.

Platform Basics

Workshop Registration Is Now Open!

Here's How It Works:

This summer's workshops are now posted online! There are a variety of exciting opportunities for all age groups, so start checking your calendars and making plans. Some workshops with a limited capacity require registration and fill quickly, so you are encouraged to sign up early. Please also note special events and outdoor

adventures that may also require advance registration and/or planning.

Here's how it works: From April 1 to May 15, Assembly residents have priority registration. Assembly residents include cottage owners, renters and their guests residing with them. Non-residents may place their names on the waiting list during this time. On May 16, registration is open to all, at which time those on the waiting list will be confirmed when space is available.

Look for the posting of the entire platform on the website soon!

*Becky Nelson,
Platform*

Rental Reminder for April

Do you rent your cottage for weddings, Sewanee Graduation or the Summer Season? As you are opening it up, scrubbing off the winter and giving it a good spit shine in anticipation of renting guests, here are some helpful reminders you just might overlook:

- Turn the hot water heater ON
- **Do you hear a “chirping,” make sure you have fresh batteries for the smoke detectors (If the chirping turns out to be birds in the chimney, you should probably take care of those too)**
- Make sure all the light bulbs work
- Restock dishwasher detergent, dish detergent, coffee filters, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper and other necessities.

Last but not least, please send in your completed cottage rental agreements. You can send them by email to housing@mssa1882.org.

Heather Olson, Housing Manager



Dog Days at MSSA

Bringing your canine friends to Monteagle this summer? They need to be registered with the office with a copy current rabies vaccination. Email these to Diane diane@mssa1882.org, fax to [931-924-2346](tel:931-924-2346) or mail them to the office.

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Facility Superintendent- Rick Duncan
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Housing Program Manager- Heather Olson
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Housing Coordinator- Debra Brown
debra@mssa1882.org

ORDER GATE TICKETS NOW!
See Insert for Order Form

Call Security

For any non-emergency, please call 931-607-8615 to report a disturbance or anything that seems odd or out of the ordinary.

[Always call 911 for Emergencies.](#)

MSSA Alcohol Policy

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the board of trustees.

It's Spring ... It's Spring!

Every spring is the only spring – a perpetual astonishment. –Ellis Peters

As the snow and ice has melted and daffodils have exploded from the wet ground, my thoughts turn to joining in the wild gardening ruckus that Spring kicks off! The Landscape Committee has lots of plans for doing just that.



In April, our planting time will begin with Mall Containers. Marty Buffington Planting Day will be held Saturday May 2, from 9-11 a.m. We will be installing the Folk Garden at Winfield. Margaret Woods, who also designed the Cheek Garden at the **East Tennis Courts, has designed the garden for us. Let's hope for beautiful weather and a wonderful opportunity to remember Marty.**

Over the season, our Mall containers will be tended by Landscaping Committee volunteers.

In early June, we'll hold our Landscape Committee Meeting to create a longer range plan for landscaping and the Arboretum. Later in June, the Committee will host a "Thanks to the Facilities Crew" Lunch.

As you come to the Assembly, notice a few wonderful things - the new plantings along the east side of the grounds, the Herb and Knot Gardens lovingly tended by Judith Humphries, and the overall fabulous grooming provided by our exceptional Facilities Crew!

Spring is a GREAT time to be at the Assembly!

*Linda Parrish, chair,
Landscape Committee*



Supporting Our Community

We are pleased to announce that MSSA will be a sponsor for the First Annual Hunger Walk to take place on the Mountain Goat Trail on April 25! Rotary International is organizing The Hunger Walk, and proceeds will be split between Morton Memorial Food Bank and Community Action in Sewanee.

The Assembly is generally insulated from the extreme poverty on the mountain, so this a great opportunity for us to support the community.

For more information on the Hunger Walk please visit www.thehungerwalk.com or call Lele McCollum 615-218-4027.

*Katie Trahan,
Outreach co-chair*

