

# MOUNTAIN VOICES



Volume 16, Issue 2

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

February 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 Manager Memories Are Made in Monteagle

Last month, a friend of mine introduced me to his longtime family friend, Walter Edgar, and asked if I would show Walter and his wife around the Assembly. Our morning began in true Monteagle fashion, foggy and wet. Walter is a descendent of the Abbot family who once owned Abbotsford cottage where the Stones Throw Cottage currently stands and for whom the Abbot Bridge was named.

Abbotsford was owned by **Walter's great-grandmother** and burned in the 1930s. Monteagle was a special place for the Abbot family. So **special that Walter's grandmother** wanted to make sure her grandchildren knew the Monteagle she had enjoyed as a child. One summer in the early 1950s, she brought all six of her grandchildren to Monteagle for the summer and rented the cottage next to the former site of Abbotsford, now known as the Orr Cottage.

Returning to Monteagle 60 years later to find the bridge pillars bearing the Abbot name, Walter

began to relive the summer during which he and his cousins first discovered the magic of the Monteagle Assembly. We found the site of his ancestral cottage including a warm welcome from current owner, Weezie Blair.



Walter went next door to the Orr Cottage and fondly remembered where he and his cousins slept: girls downstairs, boys upstairs. We explored the Auditorium to find the benches were gone, but the bats were still in residence. **All the while, Walter's wife Nela** was snapping pictures that were eventually emailed to all five of **the cousins which "evoked a spate of messages—back and forth—of various memories."**

*(continued on page 2)*

2015  
MSSA  
Calendar

February 21 Board Meeting 9AM  
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 Feb. 25th. Send articles to aewing62@gmail.com

## From the President Back to the Mountain!

Whew! I made it through January. Barely. January is the longest month of the year for me because it is the month I feel least tethered to the mountain. I am fortunate to spend at least part of every month at the Assembly - except January. My house is closed up, water is off, and it is too cold for me!

Now that February has arrived, the temperature may not be going up significantly and snow may still be in the forecast, but we optimistically open the house anyway! Spring is just around the corner and the mountain is waiting!

February may seem far away from opening day in June, but it is the time to make your summer plans! It is the time to talk to your family about which weeks of the season they plan to be there and to determine when your cottage might be available for renters or guests. If you are not in it and it is not rented, consider gifting it to neighbors, friends from your **church or child's school**, etc. There is nothing better than the gift of MSSA! And there is nothing lonelier than an empty house during the season. Plan now to keep your house full this summer! See you soon!

*Kent Ballow,  
president*

## From the Manager *(continued from page 1)*

Walter recalled with great excitement the excursions he and his cousins took to an old stone structure far away on the mountain. Yes, the young children explored all the way out to the stone house out on Sunset Rock Road, and on that misty Saturday we did as well. Walter recalled all of the details of the stone house on our way out, but was surprised to find how close it really is!

Walter is a retired college history professor, but on one cold foggy Saturday morning he was a child again enjoying the memories of the very same Assembly we and our children will enjoy in a few short months.

By the way, Walter and his cousins are working on a reunion with their families at the Assembly in the near future.

*Scott Parrish,  
general manager*



### Plan to attend this year's Trails & Trilliums

If you are interested in leading an MSSA history tour or helping in any way, contact Linda Parrish at [parrishld@bellsouth.net](mailto:parrishld@bellsouth.net).

### Cottages Available for Transfer:

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



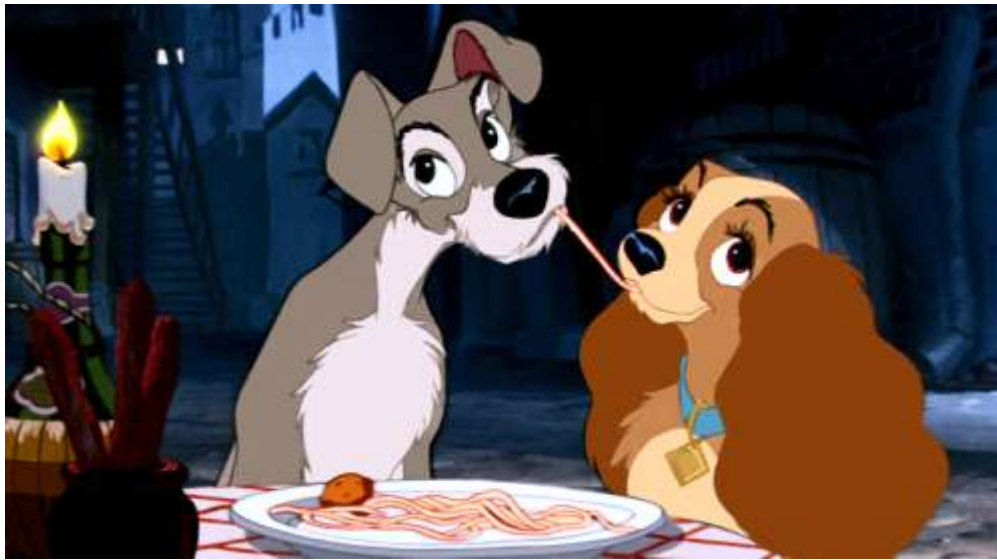
## ARC Project Submission Deadlines

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.





## Housing Office Hello

WOW, what a warm welcome the Assembly family has given me. In my first month, you emailed, called or stopped by the office to welcome me and make me feel at home. As I navigate the cottage rentals, I am enjoying learning the history of the Assembly, the special nature of its many generations and the generosity of all who come here. I even learned some trivia: the gatehouse used to have lyrics from a Bob Dylan song inside!

This truly is a special place.

*Thank you,  
Heather Olson,  
housing program manager*

## Rental Office Reminders

The 2015 summer season will be here before you know it, and rental inquiries are quickly coming in. Please remember to send in your completed cottage rental agreement, cottage availability form **and don't** forget to send in a copy of the insurance as well. Just a reminder, we cannot disburse rental proceeds until the new forms have been turned into the Housing Office at [housing@mssa1882.org](mailto:housing@mssa1882.org). Questions? Call 931-924-9000 with any questions.



*Heather Olson*



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General Manager- W. Scott Parrish  
[scott.parrish@mssa1882.org](mailto:scott.parrish@mssa1882.org)

President- Kent Ballow  
[keballow@yahoo.com](mailto:keballow@yahoo.com)

### Key MSSA Contacts

Platform Superintendent- Becky Nelson  
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Housing Program Manager- Heather Olson  
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Housing Coordinator- Debra Brown  
[debra@mssa1882.org](mailto:debra@mssa1882.org)

## 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.