

# MOUNTAIN VOICES



Volume 17, Issue 3

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

March 2016

## 2016 MSSA Calendar

April 15-17	Trails & Trilliums
May 2-8	Sewanee Graduation
May 21	Board Meeting
May 21	MAEFC Meeting

### **Mountain Voices**

Ann Ewing, editor  
Martha Ann Pilcher, design/  
layout

Deadline to submit items for the next issue is Mar. 25th. Send articles to Ann Ewing at [aewing62@gmail.com](mailto:aewing62@gmail.com)



Something you might see on a hike at Trails & Trilliums

## From the President New Platform Superintendent

It is my pleasure to announce that Virginia Curry has been hired as the next Platform Superintendent and will take over from Becky Nelson in June, 2016. We thank Becky for her wonderful dedication, enthusiasm, and programs for the past three seasons; they have been outstanding and fulfilling for all segments of the Assembly!

The search committee for Platform Superintendent worked diligently, received applications, interviewed outstanding applicants, and sent this recommendation to the board:

The Search Committee believes that Virginia Curry exhibits all of the qualities of a successful Platform Superintendent. The

daughter of MSSA member, the late Virginia Donelson and Frank Donelson, Virginia grew up coming to the mountain every summer. She has been a participant in the platform for many years. In the past,

she organized staff and volunteers for large fund raisers in Memphis, was director of publications for the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and for St. George's Day School, and served as art teacher for Collierville Middle School. Currently, at Lausanne Collegiate School, she

develops age specific art curricula; plans, organizes, and executes school-wide events; and establishes and

*(continued on page 2)*



## Virginia Curry Accepts Platform Position

*I would like to express my gratitude to the search committee and the MSSA board of trustees for entrusting me to perform the duties of the platform superintendent. My personal commitment to our historical institution and future stability of the ideals of the Assembly are paramount. Inspired and enriching platforms drive the success of MSSA year after year, and I would be honored to give back to a place that has given so much to my family and me over the years.*

*Virginia Curry*

## From the President (continued from page 1)

maintains relationships with community partners.

Virginia is committed to the principles of the Christian faith, to the purpose of MSSA, and to the stability of the **Assembly's ideals; she is** dedicated to embracing all facets of a true Chautauqua in the development and execution of the Platform for MSSA. She will divide her time between Memphis and Monteagle this year with plans to move to the Assembly in the future. During the summer she plans to be in attendance throughout the full season to supervise and evaluate planned **activities. Virginia's** attention to detail, her communication and

organizational abilities, and her enthusiasm and love for Monteagle and its traditions make her our ideal candidate. We heartily recommend a unanimous vote of acceptance.

Becky Nelson is retiring from the post in June, and Virginia and Becky are already working with Scott Parrish and others to make the transition seamless. Plans are currently underway to ensure a smooth and seamless transition, and we look forward to an exciting 2016 season.

News from the Board:  
The board, at its meeting on Saturday, February 20, 2016, accepted the recommendation from the platform superintendent search committee and has elected Virginia Curry as the new platform superintendent.

The board approved funds to paint the Nashville Home and to replace fencing from North Central Avenue to the front gate. Also approved, surplus funds from the auditorium project have been allocated to purchase state-of-the-art technology for the new Pulliam Center. Any unused money will then go to the Pulliam Center maintenance endowment fund for future maintenance and updates.

The board welcomes new member Jimmy Stansell, who will be in the Presbyterian caucus, and already is hard at work on the Property Committee!

This board set a record for out-of-season attendance with 23 of 24 members present, most attending in person and several attending electronically!  
Bravo!

*Stephanie Smith, DBA, RP  
President*

## Platform News

We have an exciting and full summer ahead with a broad selection of Platform lectures and activities planned! Mark your calendars for April 1 when the full summer program will be available online. Also, please note that priority workshop registration for Assembly residents will be from April 1 to May 15. 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 as space is available.

In addition, we welcome all to review the programs and volunteer, if desired, to accompany platform guest lecturers to lunch or host evening presenters for dinner. This is a wonderful way to get to know our guest presenters personally and to continue informal dialogue regarding their varied topics of interest and expertise.

I welcome Virginia Curry as our new platform superintendent and will enjoy working with her as she transitions into the position in June. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the mountain this spring and summer!

*Becky Nelson*

## Don't Miss It:

### Trails and Trilliums 2016

The 13th annual Trails and Trilliums Festival will be held April 15-17 on our grounds.

It is easily the most popular event of the year for the Friends of South Cumberland State Park, and this year will be no exception. The weekend opens Friday with hikes to Shakerag Hollow and Lost Cove followed in the evening by the Trails and **Trilliums Children's Choir** Concert and Student Art Exhibition in the Assembly Auditorium. A casual reception, Wine and Wildflowers will be held next door at Harton Hall with the opportunity to view the works of guest artists participating in ART for the PARK.

On Saturday, both casual and dedicated hikers can explore the natural wonder of the South Cumberland Plateau by signing up for any of 11 guided

hikes. Vans will carry participants to Lost Cove, Fiery Gizzard, Foster Falls, and as far away as Stone Door Natural Area.

At the Assembly, outdoor lovers of all ages can enjoy programs that include Wings to Soar, Butterfly Gardens, and last year's favorite Tales from the Trail.

ART for the PARK, an art and vendor sale, continues through the weekend, with many nature themed works that showcase the integration of forest beauty into our lives. Overhill Gardens will have a broad variety of native plants for gardeners recreating forest enchantment at their homes. Saturday night crescendos into the always fabulous ART for the PARK gala with dinner, art, and music benefitting Friends of the South Cumberland.



The fun continues through Sunday with four more hikes, an opportunity to learn about and build Fairy Houses, and a Hiker's Brunch highlighting this year's Friends of South Cumberland Hiking Challenge, **"Hike into History"**. Artists, vendors, and music will be available throughout the day.

The Weekend's grand finale is the return of Cumberland Wild, a panel discussion with environmental and conservation experts exploring what we need to know about protecting and preserving the unique resource that is our spectacular plateau.

**"Come join the Trails and Trilliums fun,"** said Linda Parrish, chair of the event.

**"Registration is now open!"**

Visit [Trailsandtrilliums.org](http://Trailsandtrilliums.org) for more information.

## Save the Date

**Saturday, July 2, 6:30pm**

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**

**Dinner, Auction & Memorable Moments**

**Sponsored by the  
Woman's Association**

Funds raised will be used to add a porch to the Fletcher Room

Please contact Susan Acker should you like to help or donate to this fun event.

## Calling All Ushers and Lay Readers!

The Chapel Committee needs ushers and readers for our Sunday worship services. If you would like to assist in worship either as an usher or a reader and you know which Sundays you will be available, please email Cullen Hornaday at [cullen704@gmail.com](mailto:cullen704@gmail.com).

Let her know on which of these dates you will be available: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7. We would love to have both youth and adults.



## 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.

## Prayers



Jay Francis Moritz, husband to Elizabeth Nall and son-in-law of Becky Nelson, passed away in Bethesda, Md., on February 11, 2016. A beloved husband, son, brother, uncle and amazing friend, Jay was a true pillar of his Richmond community as a business owner, bass player, artist, vinyl collector, gardener, cook, and overall Renaissance man. A celebration of life was held in Richmond, Va., followed by a memorial service and interment in Monteagle. Please keep Elizabeth, Becky, Sara, and all of Jay's family in your prayers.

## Contractor Calendar

A reminder to all cottage owners - Work by contractors is not allowed:

- May 4-8
- June 12-August 7
- October 5-9
- November 2-6

## 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.

## Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

PO Box 307  
 Monteagle, TN 37356  
 www.mssa1882.org  
 Office 931-924-2286  
 Fax 931-924-2346  
 Housing (Direct) 931-924-9000

General Manager- W. Scott Parrish  
 scott.parrish@mssa1882.org

President- Stephanie C. Smith  
 sbcsmith@blomand.net

### Key MSSA Contacts

Platform Superintendent- Becky Nelson  
 becky.nelson@mssa1882.org

Business Manager- Diane Cruise  
 diane@mssa1882.org

Bookkeeper- Arlene Bean  
 arlene@mssa1882.org

Facility Superintendent- Rick Duncan  
 rick.duncan@mssa1882.org

Housing Program Manager- Rhonda Atkins  
 rhonda@mssa1882.org

Housing Coordinator- Debra Brown  
 debra@mssa1882.org

## Cottages Available for Transfer:

#6	Windcrest	\$550,000
#15	Bridgepoint	\$650,000
#49	Tranquil Eyster	\$425,000
#103	North Gate Inn	\$695,000
#146	Boutcher	\$560,000



## 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.

**Reminder: No Smoking is allowed within fifty feet of any Assembly public building.**