

FORT NEW SALEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Passionately preserving our Appalachian legacy



**Fort
New
Salem
Foundation**

May 2009

2nd Quarter

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY... MUD & PROGRESS

Spring is always a special time at Fort New Salem! Trees green; flowers bloom and the rains lead to inevitable mud. This spring, much progress has been made following the long range plans to rehabilitate our facility. Indeed, we made much progress and much mud! We are pleased to report that the drainage project which will facilitate keeping our grounds dry and minimize water accumulating around the foundation of our cabins is approaching completion. Work is underway on a total makeover of the Blacksmith Cabin..

Since taking ownership of “the fort,” our foundation has been driven to make this a first class facility. We have chosen to take the necessary steps to-

FRONT PORCH CONCERT SERIES 2009

Due to the massive amount of work on our grounds, we are delaying the opening of the 2009 Front Porch Concert Series.

We anticipate holding our opening concert on July 24.

Additional dates will be added soon and will be announced on our website.

Our Front Porch Concerts continue to feature wholesome live entertainment featuring some of the region’s finest musicians!



The commons as seen following the drainage installation.

wards doing this rehabilitation the right way.

While we are proud of our accomplishments, we acknowledge that we still have a way to go to meet our goal of total restoration.

With each step forward, the projects we face are larger. Now more than ever, we appre-

ciate your support and seek your continued generosity!

Perhaps the spring rains of 2010 will find Fort New Salem a little less muddy!

Dr. Joseph Audia
Chairman

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS SET

Our next volunteer work days will be **June 20, 2009** and **July 18, 2009**—starting at 8 AM.

A variety of work will be scheduled including:

- painting,
- cutting of brush,
- trimming grass,
- organization of file cabinets
- shake shingle roofing
- constructing board and batten walls
- chinking cabins
- brick walkways

If you or your group are interested in participating, call us.

Specific details of the day’s activities will be posted on our web site.

We provide the materials, tools and drinks. We ask our volunteers to bring a sack lunch.

Thank You

This newsletter was printed and mailed by **Comvest Ltd., Inc.**

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Watch for our next edition featuring a preview of the **19th Annual Dulcimer Festival** which will be held August 7-9, 2009.

THE FARM HOUSE - OUR NEXT PHOENIX BIRD

The Farm House is a true portal into the beginning of the Fort New Salem project of Salem College in the early 1970's, a time of great change in the area. New highways were being built. Improved transportation meant cultural changes. John Randolph, an art professor at Salem College, had grown up in this culture—this older, simpler way—and wanted to preserve the way of life. He knew it would be gone forever if no effort was made to preserve it.

Mr. Randolph first taught Heritage Arts classes at his family farm on Indian Run. It soon became apparent, however, that transportation to the farm was difficult for some students. Mr. Randolph found a convenient spot near the college to establish what was to become Fort New Salem. Log buildings were sought and reconstructed on the site.

The Farm House was the second building brought to the site for reconstruction (the first was the Old Kitchen). It was in this building that a city boy from New Jersey first experienced the pioneer life of the region for himself. George Pinkham and another fellow or two lived in the Farm House for a few years in the early 70's as part of their coursework at the college.

They tried their hand at all aspects of the farm life—growing crops on the hillside behind the house, raising animals. Included in George's senior picture is his pet goat—chopping firewood for heat, cooking over the fire, making tools—whatever it took to survive.

Of course, there was the option of going over the hill to the

college for a hot bath and food cooked in a modern cafeteria. But George and others preferred an older way. Their home *was* the Farm House.

After George got married and moved to the country, the Farm House was home to many other students who had also taken to the idea of learning about and living in what many people consider a better way—a simpler way—preserving the folkways, traditions, trades, arts—in short, the culture—of North Central West Virginia.

The last student to live there for a summer was Patrick Blankenship. This was his Walden moment. Patrick now serves his country as a captain in the U.S. Army.

Out of this desire for cultural preservation was born first the Heritage Arts program and then the Museum Studies

degree of Salem College. Other buildings were brought to the site and more classes were added to the curriculum, but the Farm House remains the symbol of John Randolph's vision.

The Farm House may not be the most significant building in terms of architectural merit or area history—that honor belongs to the one known as the Green Tree Tavern. But the Farm House is significant in what it means to the life of the Fort project. While this building is beyond restoration, its memory will live on as the birthplace of Fort New Salem.

Like the Phoenix Bird, we envision the farm house to rise again and depict the simpler lifestyle of our heritage in our rehabilitated facility.

Since the current cabin is scheduled for demolition, we are looking for a new farmhouse to replace our current structure as well as a sponsor or sponsors to adopt the Farmhouse project!

Do you or someone you know have a suitable cabin to donate? We are now seeking a replacement cabin,

Are you interested in sponsoring this important link to our past?

Contact us for more information on how you can be a part of this future project!

**...now
seeking a
replacement**



The Farm House—the way it was...

Fort Receives Grant To Plan Visitors Center

Our foundation was recently awarded a grant to begin the planning for our new visitors center. Our thanks for WYK Associates of Clarksburg, WV for their partnering on the first conceptual architectural design.

Our prior visitors' center was razed in 2008 as the first step towards this project.

Currently, Fort New Salem has a poorly controlled entrance which does not insure

that visitors are ticketed for entering the grounds.

We hope to have a gift shop accessible to the public when Fort New Salem proper is closed for the season. The center can serve as an assembly point and entrance for tour groups to be welcomed to the experience that awaits them. This multifaceted building shall be a clearly visible entrance to the Fort.

In addition to the gift shop, we envision it containing our

ticket booth, an eating area along with public rest rooms. There will be a display area and video theater. We hope to produce a historical video that we can show our visitors before entering the grounds.

This building will be climate controlled to give us the ability to open our Visitor Center year round. This will not limit our staff or area artisans to access during our public season. Our intent is to open our Visitor Center year round.

BLACKSMITH SHOP DEMOLISHED

Work is underway for our second major project of 2009, the demolition and reconstruction of the expanded blacksmith cabin!

Our special thanks goes to our local delegation of the West Virginia Legislature and to DOMINION for their continued financial support. We also thank the Harrison

County Commission for assisting in the administration of this grant.

The Blacksmith Shop is one of our most popular attractions for visitors. The cabin is getting a much needed makeover which includes an expansion. Much of the work is being conducted by our contractor with a significant por-

tion being done by our volunteers.

We wish to thank Miracle Meadows for providing key manpower support on the demolition. We also thank Brian Moore and Ronnie Davission for their continued work. Our future volunteer days will focus on finishing this cabin.

Volunteer Today It is Rewarding — and Fun

We rely on dedicated volunteers to promote our mission to prepare the grounds while beginning to provide limited programming. Today, we need volunteers more than ever to keep on target.

Volunteers serve in many capacities, from board members who lead strategic long-range planning, to providing leadership in training and

mentoring, to those who demolish and rebuild cabins, or fund raise, or those who provide education to our visitors.

Together, these volunteers give thousands of hours in service annually to ensure that this area, its youth, and visitors are able to live our Appalachian History. As such, to these volunteers we say thank you being a part

of Fort New Salem!

If you are not currently a volunteer, please join us. In tough economic times, volunteering allows you to share in a positive experience which puts a smile on your face and a warm feeling in your heart. Please contact us to find out further details and discuss how you can make a difference.



Demolition scenes as we prepare to rebuild



200 Club Registration

The 200 CLUB was established to secure long term pledges that will assure the Fort New Salem Foundation, Inc of a financial base for the operation of the Fort. Members pledge their financial contribution over a three year period agreeing to contribute a minimum of \$1000 each year for the next three years in support of the effort to preserve the program and facilities of Fort New Salem for the future.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Preferred Payment (check one) Annual Six Month Quarterly

Recognizing the need to preserve Fort New Salem and its programs, I agree to join the "200 Club" by donating (contributing) to Fort New Salem Foundation, Inc. (The Foundation is a 501 (C)(3) recognized corporation and contributions to it are tax deductible for qualifying taxpayers) the sum of my annual donation per year for each of the next three years



200
Club

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