

A Christmas past came back to be celebrated at Fort New Salem in December. With cabin roofs topped by snow and a Christmas tree ready to be lit with home made candles, the celebration got under way.

Families arrived at the Fort to witness firsthand how the holidays were celebrated in the late 1700's and 1800's. in West Virginia.

Re-enactor Patty Cooper, of Parkerburg set up shop in Delila's cabin. Dressed in her historical garb, she entertained adults and children with toys from the 1700's like Jacob's ladder, which is a string of wooden blocks held together by a string and with story telling by the fire.

Dawn Conner and Becky Nesbitt dressed in their grab held a presentation in the

kitchen. They told the crowd how Christmas trees came to be and how the first trees were decorated with apples. The further went on to say how Christmas trees became more



popular and how the apples were replaced with glass ornaments. Both Conner and Nesbitt also displayed home-cooked food, which they prepared in the fireplace.

Other activities and cabins that were open to the public were the Blacksmith shop, Print shop, Green Tree Traven, and Basket shop.

Further, the grounds came alive with groups that sang Christmas carols. Thanks to the Madrigals and for their WONDERFUL performance's.

We can not get Der Belsnickel, played by Dave Johnson, who walked silently throughout the grounds, handing out candy to the children.

Thanks to all who volunteered your time to make this worth while for everyone. We hope we can make it bigger and better next year.

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**Thank You**

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**FORT NEW SALEM FOUNDATION, INC.**

Passionately preserving our Appalachian legacy...

**Dulcimer Festival has Spectacular Weekend**

What a spectacular weekend for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dulcimer Festival at Fort New Salem! Dulcimer players from all over the eastern seaboard gathered on Friday, August 8 to participate in this three day event that was planned by Dr. Linda Sigismondi. Linda has organized this event since its inception—in fact, it was her idea to hold this festival at the Fort starting in 1991.

Friday evening began with tents being pitched, campers being parked, old friends greeting each other and new friends being made. The sounds of dulcimers, both hammered and mountain—as well as many other instruments—rang against the surrounding hills as folks gathered on the porch of the Basket shop for the first concert of the weekend. The music continued into the late hours of the evening throughout the jam session that continued in the Basket Shop. The unusually cool evening (for August) brought out sweaters for most.

As Saturday dawned, people streamed into the Fort to take part in the many wonderful workshops organized by Linda

and taught by some of the finest leaders anywhere. There were classes in all levels and types of dulcimer playing. There were also classes in tin whistle, bowed psaltery, reading music, etc.

Saturday evening brought one of the finest concerts to the Fort that the Dulcimer Festival has ever had. The mountain dulcimer player, Shelly Stevens, delighted the audience with her performance, showing the various styles of music this instrument is capable of producing. She also sang some very entertaining songs. Stephen Humphries, the featured hammered dulcimer performer, is the 2007 National Hammered Dulcimer champion (who would have thought there was such a thing!). He proved why he is a champion, with a most fantastic performance on this somewhat daunting-looking instrument. The cd's he had flew off the sales table and into the hands of very satisfied paying customers—this writer included! One audience member said there was only one thing wrong with the concert—it wasn't near long enough!

See Dulcimer pg. 2



**FORT NEW SALEM AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT**

USDA Rural Development has granted the Fort New Salem Foundation, Inc. \$56,650 to install a drainage system at Fort New Salem.

The drainage system will consist of French drains around each of the buildings that will be tied into a central line to funnel the water off-site. Drains will also be installed around the perimeter of the parking lot to prevent water that comes off the surrounding hills from flowing across the lot, through the grounds and under the buildings. This drainage system will help to insure the preservation of one of the Fort's primary assets, its historic log structures.

The grant funds became available nationwide to counties that had been declared national disaster areas due to the recent flooding. The funds are to be used to encourage business development in these areas. The Fort became aware of the availability of the funds due to a call that

came to Terry Schulte at the Harrison County Planning / Landmark Commission. Several projects at the Fort were considered. Cheryl Wolfe, Program Director - Rural Business and Cooperative Programs of the West Virginia office of the USDA, visited the Fort and suggested that the drainage plan stood the best chance of being funded. The grant application was then completed and submitted through the guidance of board member Becky Nesbitt. Thanks to former director Tim Brady and board members Mark Kiger and Stephen Kelly for their great assistance in getting the right information to Becky for the grant application.

The Contractor Bids were recently finalized and the work will be conducted this spring as weather permits.

**Quick Facts**

- Envisioned as the bedrock of the Foundation
- Covers operational budget
- Donation is tax deductible
- Three payment plans
- Members will be recognized on-site



*Dulcimer*  
(Continued from pg. 1)

Sunday opened with the Traditional Song Circle. Blearily-eyed dulcimer players (the late night jam session ended somewhere around 2 in the morning—or later for some) gathered in the central green of the Fort and played a mix of traditional songs and old-time hymns. The late morning and early afternoon saw a continuance of fine workshops, mostly for more advanced players. The afternoon

closed with a festival favorite—the ending jam session, concluding with the annual singing of John’ Denver’s “Country Roads”. Tents were then packed, campers hooked to trucks, hugs all around to old and new friends alike and plans started for next year’s Dulcimer Festival at Fort New Salem.

Thanks to Board Chairman Kevin Fluharty for providing the festival participants with two satisfying lunches and a

fine dinner of lasagna on Saturday night. Thanks also to the board members and others who came and helped set up the Fort for this, our first truly large event on site since acquiring the property. And thanks especially to Linda Sigismondi and all the fine dulcimer folks who organized and participated in this event. See you next year!

### 200 Club Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Payment (check one)  Annual  Six Month  Quarterly  
*Please clip and mail with your first payment*



### The 200 Club

The bedrock of our future fundraising efforts is The 200 Club. Fort New Salem is projecting an annual working budget of \$200,000. With that in mind, The 200 Club was established to guarantee that The Fort has the working capital necessary to move forward. The concept is simple, 200 people pledging at least \$1000 per year for three years. Members of The 200 Club will be recognized in our newsletter, as well as in some permanent way on the grounds of Fort New Salem. Solidifying The 200 Club is vital because once we have our working budget taken care of we can use other monies raised for major projects and facilities renovations.

### From The Director

#### Investing In Our Future

#### Endowments

The early founders of the Fort had a vision and commitment to make the grounds the #1 visitor's site in West Virginia. In that spirit, we honor the modern-day visionaries who want to commit and perpetuate the vision and beliefs of the founders.

Endowments recognizes deferred gifts designated for the Foundation. Donors are recognized for gift com-

mitments with a value though the following.

- Bequest in a will or codicil
- Charitable trust, such as unitrust, annuity trust, and lead trust.
- Annuities or Pooled Income Fund gifts
- Life insurance
- Retirement plan designation
- Other deferred gifts approved by the Foundation

For more information about or to make a donation, please contact me at 304-695-2220 or email me.

In closing, I am looking forward to a Great Year both in fundraising and activities. I hope each and everyone of you will get involved.

Thanks In Advance  
 Rey Galindo  
 Executive Director

### From the Foundation Chairman

We expect 2009 to be an exciting year as we transition from what we were to what we will be! Director Galindo has infused our organization with dynamic ideas for activities and fund raising events as we continue our mission to repair, restore and redesign Fort New Salem.

We are thrilled to see our planning culminating in two key projects – the drainage project and the restoration

and expansion of the blacksmith cabin! Work should begin on each of these projects this spring and by summer; our facility will be a little closer to providing our visitors with the environment we seek!

As we work our way through our projects, the magnitude of the “next” one increases. Ultimately, we will be addressing the restoration of the Green Tree Tavern; the total replace-

ment of the Farm House and the construction of our new visitors center!

Our progress is only limited by our imagination and, of course, our fund raising!

Dr. Joseph Audia  
 Chairman, Fort New Salem Foundation



### FORT NEW SALEM RECEIVES STATE GRANT

The Fort New Salem Foundation was recently notified by the Community Development Division of the West Virginia Development Office that we have been awarded \$20,000 in development grants through the Community Participation Program.

Since taking ownership of the facility, our foundation has worked on various cabin restorations. This grant is earmarked for the rehabilitation of the Blacksmith Shop. Cur-

rently, volunteers (Brian Moore and Ronnie Davisson) have cleaned out the cabin, worked on the forge and repaired the bellows. This phase of the project will involve the removal and reconstruction of the roof, walls and doors as well as an expansion of the current size and addition of a shed on the back of the cabin.

The foundation extends its thanks to the West Virginia Legislature for their continued support of the rebirth of

Fort New Salem and the Harrison County Commission for their assistance in the efficient administration of this grant.

We are finalizing the design and bid specifications and hope to have this project completed by the end of this summer!



# Fort New Salem Foundation