



Fort New Salem Foundation

4th Quarter 2007

November

FORT NEW SALEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Passionately preserving our Appalachian legacy...

Thank You

This quarter's newsletter was printed and mailed by **Comvest, LLC**

Linda Sigismond worked tirelessly to make Dulcimer Weekend 2007 a huge success

The Apple Butter Festival Board of Directors graciously donated table space to Fort New Salem during festival weekend

Bridgeport Boy Scout Troop 40 and Clarksburg DeMoLay volunteered their time working at The Fort

Spirit of Christmas in the Mountains

It's that time. As the cool, autumn air descends upon the hills of West Virginia, our thoughts at Fort New Salem turn to Christmas.

This year, we're expanding our annual *Spirit of Christmas in the Mountains* celebration. Please make plans to join us December 15th and 16th, as we journey back in time to present Christmas in the Appalachian frontier of the mid-19th Century.

Saturday night's festivities will get under way at 4pm. We'll have food, music, gifts for sale, Belsnickle for the children and a traditional tree lighting.

On Sunday we'll start at 2pm with an open house. This is your chance to tour some of the renovated cabins, talk with members of our Board

of Directors and get a first hand look at not only what has been accomplished, but what is planned for the facility.

Also on Sunday, we're inviting area legislators and other elected officials. We want to take the opportunity to show our representatives what overwhelming support the Fort New Salem Foundation has received from the community.

Admission and concessions are free. We'll have a gift shop open, and we'll also have information available on volunteering and donating.

So, again, please make plans to visit us on one of those two days: Saturday, December 15th or Sunday, December 16th. It's the *Spirit of Christmas in the Mountains* at Fort New Salem.



Quick Facts

- *Spirit of Christmas in the Mountains*
- Saturday, December 15th and Sunday, December 16th
- Open Saturday at 4pm
- Open Sunday at 2pm for Open House and Legislative Reception
- Admission is free
- Gift shop open
- Tours, music, food, tree lighting and more
- Fun for the entire family

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200 Club Campaign on the Horizon

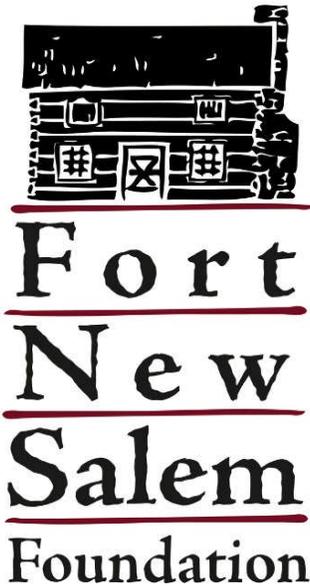


As we near the end of the year, we look forward to 2008. Much has been done at Fort New Salem in 2007, but there is still an enormous amount to accomplish. To reach our goals, we need your help.

Please take this time to carefully consider joining the Fort New Salem Foundation 200 Club. The goal is to get 200 people to pledge \$1000 per year for three years. This

is the bedrock of our efforts, as these funds are designated for our operational budget, allowing us to direct other monies raised toward capital projects.

In the next few weeks, we'll be rolling out a direct mail campaign for the 200 Club. Please join us as we strive to preserve our rich Appalachian heritage for future generations.



Meeting House Makeover

As a part of our ongoing Adopt-A-Cabin efforts, “The Searchers” Sabbath School class of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church has taken over renovations to the Meeting House cabin.

The group began preliminary work in August. The first phase of renovations was to replace a rotten bottom log on the front, or south, side of the structure. After removing the rotten log, a new poplar log, donated by Bill Burnside of Burnside’s Sawmill, was put into place.

During this phase of renovations, several rotten pieces of subfloor were replaced. Also, a new threshold was installed.

Steps were taken along the way to prevent future deterioration. An aluminum termite shield was installed, the undersides of sub-floor pieces were treated with wood preservative, as was the underside of the new poplar log.

The second phase of renovations took place a few weeks later, as the group began replacing the roof of the Meeting House. Volunteers

stripped away the old roofing materials, then laid new cedar shakes, with an underlay of #30 roofing felt. This is the same process followed on other cabins at Fort New Salem.

Future projects will include replacing the rotten bottom log on the back, or north, side of the building, replacing broken chinking, replacing cracked window panes, painting the interior ceiling and potentially building a porch on the backside of the building, allowing a fluid traffic pattern for tours.

Fort Memories

This issue’s memory comes from Chuck Meathrell:

I had been around The Fort for a number of years before Jeff Wyne took it upon himself to create a nature trail on the hillside behind the facility. At that time, anything new at The Fort was exciting. We were all elated to take a break from our toil and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere. A friend and I decided to take a break and look for a pond that Jeff had discov-

ered just to the east.

As we started up the trail behind the farm house, we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into. We set off the normal trail and, after a short walk, found the pond in question. In reality, it was just a big puddle. We snickered at Jeff’s excitement and turned and headed back in the direction from where we had come.

It was a new trail and not exactly clear. Despite my boasting about

being a “country boy at heart” we were soon hopelessly lost. The only direction I knew to go was down. We would end up somewhere along Valley Street. The hill was steep and my friend was in a new dress. All we could do was cling to trees and slide.

We found our way to the bottom. I convinced a former teacher to give us a ride back to The Fort. My friend’s new dress was full of dirt, she was not amused.

“It was a new trail and not exactly clear.

Despite my boasting about being a ‘country boy at heart’ we were soon hopelessly lost.”

From The Director

In the last few months I have had the opportunity to speak to numerous community and civic groups about our ongoing efforts at Fort New Salem. Each time, I have been overwhelmed by the positive response to our project.

It is encouraging to know that so many people in the region support what we’re doing. However, I am quick to remind folks that the proof is in the pudding.

It is one thing to say that you support our efforts, that’s the easy part. However, will you volunteer your time to help? Will you make a donation? More importantly, when we schedule activities will you attend?

That’s the easiest way to show your support. Show up.

We have our annual *Spirit of Christmas in the Mountains* celebration scheduled for December

15th and 16th. That’s a Saturday and Sunday. Please make plans to join us on one, or both, of those days.

As we work to renovate and re-open Fort New Salem, we do so for **you**. The Fort is **our** collective history. Make sure you take the time to share and enjoy it.

See you in December!

Tim Brady
Executive Director

Email The Director:
director@fortnewsalemfoundation.org

Board Spotlight: Bob Fulton

Bob Fulton joined the Fort New Salem Task Force in 2000, shortly after its creation. This group was the precursor to the Fort New Salem Foundation. Bob currently serves as Foundation Chairman

“My youngest son interned at Fort New Salem as a blacksmith during his sophomore year in high school.

It is important for our children to understand that the concrete highways and buildings were not always here. It took hard work and the dedication of some very courageous people to get a foothold in

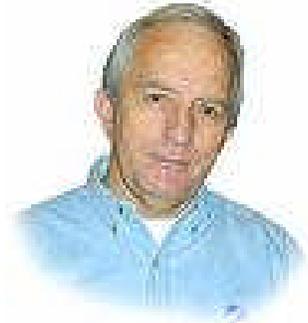
what was once considered wilderness.”

Bob serves as manager of Media & Community Relations for Dominion Transmission and Dominion Hope. He has worked for Dominion and its predecessor, CNG, for 21 years. Previously he was a broadcast journalist and news director for WBOY-TV in Clarksburg.

Fulton attended Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon and Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, West Virginia. He is also a Vietnam Era Air Force Veteran.

In addition to serving on the Fort New Salem Foundation Board of Directors, Bob is a board member of the West Virginia Grantmakers Association. He also serves on the United Way of Harrison County’s Marketing Committee and the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee

Bob resides in Clarksburg with his wife, Linda. He has four children and two grandchildren, including Tyler, an avid Fort New Salem volunteer.



Bob Fulton—Chairman of the Fort New Salem Foundation

Festival Successes

Fall is festival season in the Mountain State. In the Salem area, two festivals highlight the slipping of summer sunshine into the hazy twilight of autumn.

August 10th-12th was Dulcimer Weekend at the Salem Depot. This weekend festival is sponsored by the Fort New Salem Foundation. The three day event features clinics, workshops and performances. Dulcimer players from around the country gather

annually to celebrate this traditional instrument. This year’s Dulcimer Festival was a huge success, thanks in large part to the hard work of Linda Sigismondi.

The Foundation greatly appreciates, too, all of the work put in by workshop leaders, volunteers and performers. We’re looking forward to continued growth next year as we move the festival back to Fort New Salem.

The Foundation also appreciates the generosity of the Salem Apple Butter Festival. The Festival Board allowed the Foundation to set up an informational table at no charge during this year’s highly attended, and extremely successful Apple Butter Festival weekend.

The Apple Butter Festival annually features some of the best food, music, crafts and entertainment in North Central West Virginia. We’re happy to be a small part of it!

Next year, the Fort New Salem Foundation Dulcimer Weekend heads back to its original home—Fort New Salem!

Outstanding Volunteers

The Fort New Salem Foundation has been blessed with outstanding volunteers. This has been true historically. However, in the last several months multiple groups and individuals have stepped up to the plate.

Many of the groups are highlighted here in this newsletter, or even in our local media which has been extremely supportive. The individuals, though, sometimes go unnoticed.

We’re talking about men like David Conway, who has worked tirelessly in spearheading much of the roofing work that has taken place and Benji Munez who has been available on several occasions to help with hauling large items and has helped with several construction projects.

Stephen Kelley has gone above and beyond, helping to lay new culvert pipe in the Fort parking lot, digging temporary

drainage ditches and supervising debris removal.

Finally, we can’t forget about Scott and Becky Rogers. While their church has adopted the Meeting House cabin, Scott and Becky have spearheaded the work.

Obviously, we risk leaving someone out by calling attention to these individuals. It is important, however, that outstanding efforts be recognized.



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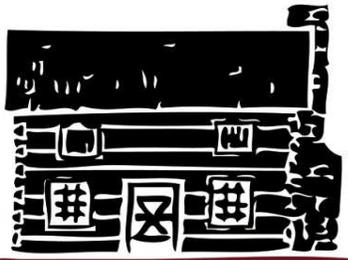
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Exciting Outlook in Salem



Fort
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These are truly exciting times in the Salem area. An infusion of new blood, new energy and new ideas have many people anticipating a giant leap forward.

Salem was recently selected as one of ten Blueprint Communities in West Virginia. The program, under the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, is designed to provide communities the opportunity to gain leadership training and techniques to assist in the revitalization of their areas. A team approach to community development is emphasized. All aspects of development—including housing, infrastructure, economic stimulation and healthy, safe surroundings are addressed in the community planning. The Salem Blueprint Community Team's comprehensive plan can be viewed and downloaded at www.salemwv.com.

In other news, the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce is developing its first county-wide Partners-In-Education project; a fitness and nature trail at the new Salem Elementary School. It will include an outdoor classroom for 50 students, expansion of an existing wetlands,

ten to twelve fitness stations and identification of indigenous trees, plants and grasses. The trail will be connected by other civic groups to the existing fitness trail at Salem International University. Eventually all of the trails will be interconnected and lead to Fort New Salem.

The ultimate goal of the trail project is to create a destination for all Harrison County schools. In one short trip they will be able to use the fitness trail, get hands-on education in several fields of science and experience living history.

Along with these projects, there are new faces in leadership positions in the Salem area. David Mayle will take over as City Manager in December. The 2007-2008 Salem International University Men's Basketball team will be led by new head coach Andy Sorine. The Fighting Tigers tip off the home portion of their season November 20th against West Liberty State. Game time is 7:30.

These are truly exciting times in the Salem area. As Fort New Salem comes alive, it is encouraging to see such progress elsewhere.

Email our Executive Director: director@fortnewsalemfoundation.org