



EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER

NOTES FROM EVERGREEN

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

The **Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC)**, located on 130 acres of “Federal Hill” in Allegheny County, is an historic Maryland estate that pre-dates the Revolutionary War. The EHC includes the Trimble family’s ancestral home (now a museum), beautifully landscaped grounds, forest and streams, all in a scenic location adjacent to the Great Allegheny Passage and Western Maryland Scenic Railway.

The **Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation**, a public charity, is dedicated to utilizing the Evergreen Heritage Center to provide hands-on indoor/outdoor learning opportunities for students of all ages. This fall, the Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation is beginning a series of **environmental activity programs for children** based on **Project Learning Tree’s** guide to environmental education. Project Learning Tree (PLT), developed by the American Forest Foundation, began in the early 1970s, and has used the expertise of thousands of educators, curriculum specialists, and technical experts to produce a two inch thick workbook of 96 environmental activities that are available to over 200,000 teachers worldwide that have been trained on the program.

For over 16 years, all **Frostburg State University (FSU)** elementary and early childhood majors have attended a one day course to become certified to teach PLT activities. However, due to the structured nature of teacher preparation programs, these soon-to-be teachers do not typically have the opportunity to obtain hands-on experience teaching PLT activities to reinforce the training they have received and increase the likelihood of them using the exercises during their teaching careers.

On September 19th, FSU student volunteers that are certified to teach PLT activities will begin a series of workshops at the EHC, where they will use PLT activities to teach children about the environment. The first workshop will be sponsored by the **Salvation Army** and will include a dozen children ages six to twelve. Another class, on October 2nd, will include 20 three to five year olds sponsored by the Human Resources Development Commission **Head Start Program**. More workshops will be conducted in the spring. Supplies are funded by the **Foundation for Education in Rural Maryland**.

One of the activities (called the “**Tree Factory**”) teaches children about the structure of a tree by having them act out the roles of the various parts of a tree such as the leaves, trunks, branches, and roots. Then children participate in “building a tree” so that they may understand the role that each part of the tree plays in helping the tree to function. To learn more about PLT and its activities, visit www.plt.org.

For more information on **EHC education programs**, please contact Janice Keene, Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation, via phone on (301)-687-0664 or via email at janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org.

QUARTERLY UPDATE:

- *The EHC Foundation is providing **environmental education activities for children of all ages** (see page 1).*
- ***Twenty-three FSU courses are utilizing Evergreen this year** (see page 3).*
- *This year’s Maryland Forest Association (MFA) conference will include a tour of the Evergreen Heritage Center, featuring “**green**” **small scale logging** (see page 3)*

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THE EVERGREEN BARN

Eight generations ago, **in the late 1700s**, one of Allegany County's early settlers, Edward Grimes, built a stone foundation log home about a mile from a settlement that would become known as Mount Savage. (After multiple owners and renovations, in the 1870s, the Trimble family would rename this home "Evergreen".) Also circa 1780, it is believed that Mr. Grimes built the stone foundation bank barn that remains at Evergreen today, approximately 1000 feet from the house. The barn was **built on a hillside** (bank) to provide ground level access in both the front and back of the building. It was constructed in the Pennsylvania style known as "Sweitzer" and with an eight foot "open forebay" (overhang) extending over six stables on the lower level.

Grimes' barn is classified as a Sweitzer style because, according to [The Pennsylvania Barn](#) by Robert Ensminger, 1) it has a "forebay of medium depth, six to nine feet, supported only by **forebay beams cantilevered into the barn structure**: and 2) "the front roof slope is longer than the rear roof slope because the roof continue unbroken over the forebay. The angle of the slope is steep, 40 to 45 degrees, facilitating rapid drainage from original roofs, which were of thatch or from wooden shingles. The result is the characteristic asymmetrical gable-end silhouette of the Swietzer barn." Grimes' barn is a frame Sweitzer; the earliest Sweitzer barns were made of logs.

On the upper level, the Grimes' barn had **two log cribs for hay separated by a threshing floor**. Ground level access to the threshing floor was via a doorway wide enough for a wagon. The side of the barn facing the house had a **corn crib** (approximately 9' long, 4' wide, 6' high) as well as door-sized opening where grain could be shoveled out the side from the **granary area** in the back of the log crib on that side of the barn. An opening in the front wall section of the threshing floor allowed hay to be tossed to the barnyard below.

Based on cutouts in the frame that are visible today, the stables appear to have had wooden **Dutch doors** that swung open. These doors were replaced in the 1800s with wooden doors with rolling wheels. Two of the stables have **troughs** that are long logs that have been hollowed out to hold feed for the animals. In the first stable, the trough is higher for larger animals such as horses, and in the third stable, the trough is lower for animals such a ponies. The **forebay overhang** provided livestock entering or exiting the stables with protection from snow or rain.

The barn's frame construction was **tongue and groove with pegs and no nails**. A heavy plank stairway (still in place in one of the stables today) provided access from the stables to the upper level in an area behind the granary. The cantilevered beams (partially **hand-hewn logs with the bark still on**) that were used to create the forebay overhang, were over 45' long and made of white oak or chestnut (requiring trees of at least 90 to 100 feet in height). Similar logs were laid across the barn frame, high above the threshing floor, to support planks that could be used for **drying of tobacco**. The barn also had a **cupola** (which is still in place) that would facilitate ventilation, particularly for hay and tobacco. The Barn has **recently been opened for tours**.



The Evergreen Barn

*"IN 1976,
EVERGREEN WAS
RECOGNIZED BY THE
MARYLAND
HISTORICAL TRUST
AND ADDED TO ITS
INVENTORY OF
HISTORICAL
PROPERTIES"*



Racks for Drying Tobacco

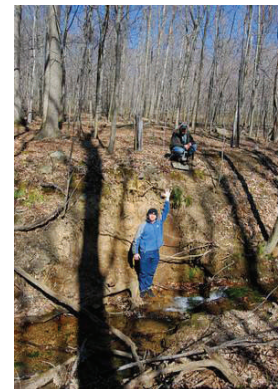
HANDS-ON LEARNING AT EVERGREEN

This year, Frostburg State University (FSU), is providing hands-on learning opportunities for dozens of FSU students. **Twenty three FSU courses** are utilizing the Evergreen Heritage Center this year as part of the Center's mission to partner with the academic, business, and public service communities to offer real world projects for students in fields such as the arts, biology, business, computer science, education, geography, mass communications, and parks and recreation.

Student projects this year **span a variety of areas of study** including web site design and development, illustration of regional plants and birds, planting and study of mushrooms and medicinal herbs, study of the EHC plant community, identification of tree species, analysis of the density of species in the EHC forest, chemical analysis of water samples from Evergreen streams and ponds, study of Evergreen insects and invertebrates, development of an EHC marketing plan, mapping the Evergreen Trail, design of a "green" greenhouse for the EHC, and development a promotional video on EHC learning opportunities.

All students participating in these courses are required to create a professional quality work product (e.g. a painting, report, or garden) that can be added to their portfolios/resumes, thereby providing the student with additional credentials and a **better chance to compete in the job market** after graduation.

One example of a recent student project is the **newly built Evergreen Heritage Center web site which can now be accessed on-line at www.evergreenheritagecenter.org**. More upgrades to the site will be developed by art and computer science students this year.



Students at Evergreen

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DEMONSTRATING RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

This fall, on October 30th and 31st 2009, the **Maryland Forests Association** (MFA) will be holding its MFA Annual Conference at the Rocky Gap Resort in Allegany County, Maryland. The subject of the conference is "**Staying Green in a Red Economy**". This meeting will include a review of national and state issues impacting forests, wildlife, and natural resources; the issues and implication of "green certification; and new opportunities to go from "green" to "greener".

In addition, this year's MFA Conference **includes a tour of the Evergreen Heritage Center**. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the Evergreen Museum, Barn, and grounds. In addition, they will see a "green" small scale logging demonstration and will learn about the benefits of responsible forestry management, as presented by forester Dan Hedderick of the **Maryland Department of Natural Resources** (DNR) and local logger Matt Diehl. Dan will also describe the forestry management program that has been followed by the Evergreen Heritage Center since the 1950s, and the Forest Stewardship plan (developed by the DNR) that is currently used to manage the Evergreen forest today.

For more information about the Maryland Forests Association or the MFA 2009 annual Meeting, contact the MFA on (301) 895-5369 or director@mdforests.org.



*"THIS YEAR'S MFA
CONFERENCE
INCLUDES A TOUR OF
THE EVERGREEN
HERITAGE CENTER"*



EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER

15603 Trimble Road NW
Mount Savage, MD 21545

Contact: Janice Keene
President, Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation
101 Braddock Heights, Frostburg, MD 21532
Phone: 301-687-0664
Cell: 703-326-0425
E-mail: janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.EVERGREENHERITAGECENTER.ORG

*THE EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER
IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVATION,
CONSERVATION, AND EDUCATION*

Looking for a New Venue for Your Next Meeting or Event?

Come join us at the Evergreen Heritage Center, adjacent to the Western Maryland Scenic Railway and the Great Allegheny Passage. We can host your meeting or event, accommodating up to 40 people. Guests can enjoy tours of the historic Evergreen Museum, barn and walking trail. Catering services are available upon request.

We are located just 1.5 miles outside of Mount Savage, 10 minutes from Frostburg, 15 minutes from Cumberland.

Contact Janice Keene, 301-687-0664 or janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org

2009 EVERGREEN MUSEUM SCHEDULE

The Evergreen Museum will be open to the public this season from 1pm to 4pm on the following Sundays:

- May 17th
- June 21st
- July 19th
- August 9th
- September 20th
- October 18th

In addition, private tours are available upon request.



Inside the Evergreen Barn