



EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER

NOTES FROM EVERGREEN

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The **Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Foundation**, a public charity, is dedicated to utilizing the Evergreen Heritage Center, an historic Maryland estate adjacent to the Great Allegheny Passage, to provide hands-on indoor/outdoor learning opportunities for students of all ages. Last fall, the EHC Foundation began an **environmental education program for children**. This win-win program, which utilizes Frostburg State University and Allegany College education and forestry students to conduct these educational activities as part of their field work (providing them with experiential and service learning, **science and math** teaching experience, and a marketable credential in environmental education), is planned to provide exciting, interactive learning opportunities for more than 1500 children per year by 2014.

Why are the Foundation and its partners (which include the region's YMCA, Human Resources Development Commission, Salvation Army, Allegany County Public Schools, and Maryland Department of Juvenile Services) so committed to environmental education?

- According to the *Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature*, environmental education can address critical behavioral and health issues (including childhood obesity, attention deficit disorder, and depression) associated with “**nature deficit disorder**”, which occurs because (per a 2010 study by the Kaiser Foundation), children spend an average of **7 1/2 hours/day in front of a TV or computer**, and less than 4 minutes/day in unstructured outdoor play;
- According to the National Environmental Education Foundation, supporter of the national *No Child Left Inside* initiative, the outdoors are also important for children's overall well-being (e.g. cognitive development and cooperative play) and help serve as a buffer against stress;
- According to a 2009 report prepared for the state, **Maryland has a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) deficit**: the state “suffers from a shortage of highly qualified STEM workforce ... with approximately 6000 STEM openings a year... and only 4000 STEM graduates”; plus the state is only producing 23% of the STEM teachers it requires;
- Children need to get excited about learning and staying in school, since according to the National Governors Association, **as many as 30 percent of students leave school without a diploma**.

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's environmental education program is projected to **support 1500 children per year by 2014** (see page 1).*
- *FSU students are exhibiting their **EHC botanical illustrations** (see page 3).*
- *The **Evergreen Museum** reopens in mid April for private **tours and events** and is open on select **Sundays** to the general public (see page 4)*

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EDWARD GRIMES AND THE FIRST HOUSE AT EVERGREEN

In the late 1700s, one of Allegany County's early settlers, Edward Grimes, built the original "Evergreen" house and barn when he first settled on the property. Mr. Grimes is officially listed as a resident of the area (known then as **Wills Town**) in the **1783 Maryland Tax Assessment** and is listed as the original owner on the property's 1787 "**military lot**" **deeds** (received by early settlers or veterans of the Revolutionary War). The assumption that Mr. Grimes' house is the first version of what would become Evergreen is further supported by a survey for a nearby property known "Nancy's Delight" that was commissioned by Mr. Grimes in 1793. This survey references "Edward Grimes House" and sites the far east corner of this triangular property as being "about 30 perches north of a spring run and about 1/4 mile westwardly of Edward Grimes House", the location of Evergreen today.

Based on the practices of the time, Mr. Grimes' house was likely built in stages, with the family living in the first section (approximately 700 square feet) while they built a larger 1000 square foot addition. The stone cellar of the first section included the **large stone fireplace** that is conjectured to have been used to cook the Grimes' family meals. It remains today as do five of the **wooden stairs** that led from the main floor of the house down to the cellar. Mr. Grimes' house was likely constructed of logs and lathing above the cellar foundation, similar to the 1799 Compass Inn in Laughlintown, Pennsylvania. Six of the logs from the original house were reused as floor joists as part of renovations that were made 100 years later and are visible today in the cellar ceiling.

The remainder of the log upper structure of the Grimes' house was removed as part of renovations in the early 1800s, but **the cellar contains many clues** to its likely architecture. For example, a stone chimney in the second section of the cellar could have supported wood burning stoves in both the cellar and on the main floor. In addition, since Mr. Grimes' built a "bank" house (nestled in the side of a hill so that ground level access was available via both the cellar in the front and the main floor in the back), the cellar includes outside doorways and windows that remain today. In the front, two doorways, one of which was four feet wide, likely to facilitate the storage of goods or **safekeeping of small farm animals**.

To gain access to water and a source of refrigeration, the house was deliberately built over a stream, which can still be seen today. This stream was dammed in the back corner of the cellar to create a **shallow well** to provide drinking water and cold storage of food. This well remained in use for over 150 years.

With regard to the floor plan of the main floor of the house, the first section likely had two rooms (a dining room and "**servicing kitchen**" where food cooked in the cellar kitchen would have been prepared for serving). The second section probably included a large parlor, the parents' bedroom, and an anteroom that contained the back entrance to the house and the stairs to the cellar.

In addition to the cellar and main floor, the house is believed to have had an attic or loft, as evidenced by a roofline marking created during remodeling in the 1820s. This attic or loft, where children and servants may have slept, could have been accessed by a ladder or stairs located where the home's back stairs are today. Mr. Grimes' house, now the **Evergreen Museum**, is available for **tours** (see page 4).



The Compass Inn

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The Grimes Cellar Kitchen



The Grimes Cellar Stairs

EVERGREEN BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

The Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation and Frostburg State University (FSU) are continuing their partnership to provide hands-on learning opportunities for dozens of FSU students. **Twenty three FSU courses** are utilizing the Evergreen Heritage Center this academic year as part of the Foundation’s mission 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.

One such project last semester was the creation of botanical illustrations by FSU Visual Art students as part of an Advanced Illustration course led by Daniel Filippone, Instructor. Last fall, students observed a variety of birds residing at the Evergreen Heritage Center as these birds interacted with their native habitat. A total of thirteen illustrations were created, including the two shown on the right.

The American Crow is distinctive with iridescent black features, can produce a wide variety of sounds (including noises made by other animals), and can live in the wild for about 7 to 8 years. The Barred Owl, also known as the hoot owl, has a pale face and brown eyes (most owls have yellow eyes), and favors the dense woods of Canada and the Eastern United States.

Other illustrations made by the students include the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, the Purple Finch, the Blue-Headed Vireo, the Red-Bellied Woodpecker, the Black-Capped Chickadee, the Great Horned owl, the Eastern Bluebird, the Tufted Titmouse, the Green-Winged Teal, the Baltimore Oriole, and the Red-Headed Woodpecker. All of these illustrations are currently on exhibition in the President’s Hall in the Hitchens Building on the FSU campus.



American Crow



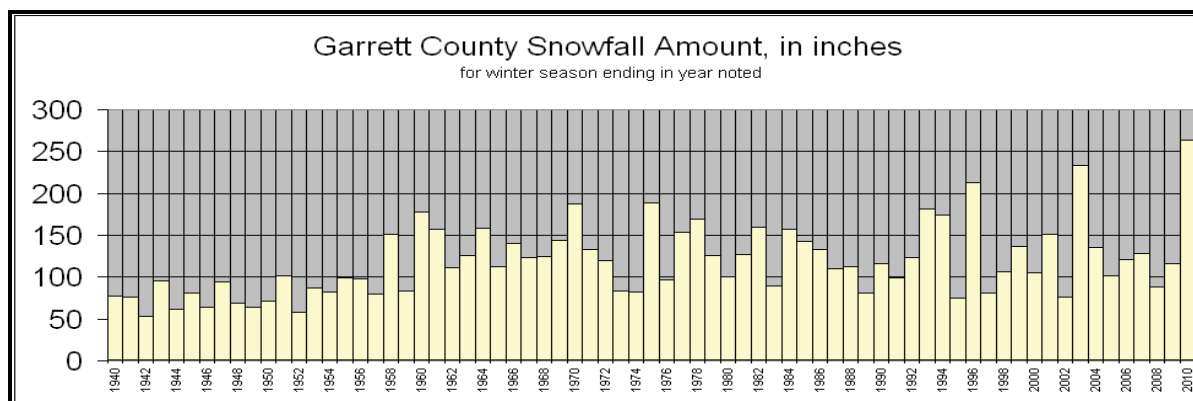
Barred Owl

THE WINTER OF 2010

This winter, as many of you in the eastern part of the country know, was very generous in terms of storms, and for many of us, snowfall. Our neighbors in Garrett County were particularly hard hit, achieving a new record snowfall of over 260 inches as of March 7th (more than double its snow for the previous six years, per the chart shown below). At Evergreen, our snowpack seemed to peak at about four feet, but lasted for weeks, which resulted in a very tough winter for our trees, plants, and wildlife.



Evergreen in Winter





EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER

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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

2010 EVERGREEN MUSEUM SCHEDULE

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

- May 16th
- June 13th
- July 11th
- August 8th
- September 19th
- October 17th

In addition, private tours are available upon request.



Inside the Evergreen Barn