



Happy New Year to All Four Seasons Residents!

A Thank You From Our Clubhouse Staff

Dear Four Seasons Residents,

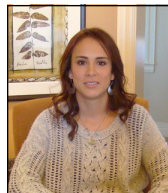
We love the atmosphere at Four Seasons...from the beautiful building to the laughter and fellowship among residents and the fun conversations as you come by the desk. Christmas is extra special as we watch you come together to decorate the clubhouse so beautifully and to experience your generosity as gifts come pouring in to provide for a family in need in the Greene Community. What a great place to work!

We can't begin to express our thanks for your generous Christmas gift. There is nothing more valuable than to feel validated and appreciated by such a great community! Thank you again for making our Christmas extra special, not just with the physical gift, but also the gift of your smiles and conversations.

Blessings to you all in 2015,

Your Clubhouse Staff

Jeanne, Christine, Sylvia and Sam



A Good Place to Visit in Virginia: Mountain Lake

Story by Vibe Weber

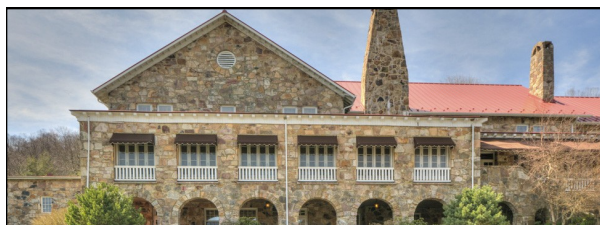
MOUNTAIN LAKE

Wilderness Conservancy at Mountain Lake
Pembroke, Virginia

For 150 years there has been a retreat tucked away in the Alleghany Mountains of southern Virginia which has served as a respite for sports enthusiasts, and those seeking rest and relaxation. The area was first discovered by Christopher Gist in 1751. It was privately owned by the philanthropic Moody family and given to a private foundation they established for the preservation of natural beauty. It is one of two natural lakes (the other being Lake Drummond in the Dismal Swamp) in Virginia and one which has had a “controversial” history. The lake’s origin has been studied extensively by VA Tech researchers for many years. The mysterious ebb and flow and dramatic fluctuations in water level continue to make it an interesting study. Mountain Lake is less than 30 minutes from Blacksburg at an elevation of 4000 feet.

Fifty one years ago my husband and I honeymooned at Mountain Lake, staying in the main lodge – an impressive stone building. Even then there were cabins along the large, stocked lake for families to enjoy. It was in the dining room that Isaac, our waiter, introduced us to lemon on cantaloupe. He assured us there was no other way to eat a good piece of cantaloupe! Who knew? There are some people you never forget.

As the years passed we returned for weekends and then for our son’s graduation. It was May 4th. We stayed in a cabin on the lake (updated!) and woke up to snow.... The updated dining room was still lovely and the food, delicious, but no Isaac. By then there were condominium style accommodations with fireplaces and hot tubs and more houses around the lake. A beautiful gazebo was built out into the lake where row boats, canoes and paddle boats moved along. In 1986/87 this picturesque location was selected to film scenes for the movie “Dirty Dancing” starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Gray. Since then there have been several “Dirty Dancing” weekends held at Mountain Lake. There is always something going on – theme weekends, disk golf tournaments, music festivals, eating and drinking events, Treetop Adventures (zip lines, sky bridges, balancing ropes etc.) and Kids Kamp. Families and hiking clubs come for the many trails available and lots of other

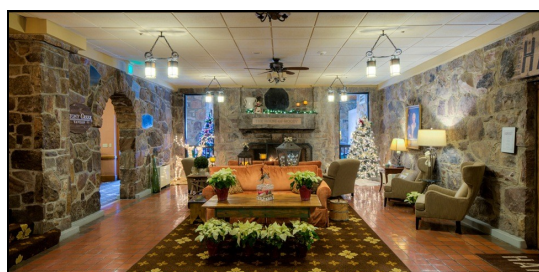


recreational options – game room, gym, jogging track, tennis and pool.

In fact Mountain Lake is an anomaly since in recent years the lake has withdrawn to a small pool. For those who used to go for boating and fishing, this requires a change in plan. Scientists, environmentalists, geologists and engineers are studying the extensive fluctuations which are historic at Mountain Lake. Historic and modern theories abound!

But not to worry, Mountain Lake is still a vibrant 2600 acre nature reserve and a fascinating retreat with the main Lodge, cabins, houses and condominiums to suit your needs. Having just visited again this past Christmas with two active grandsons, we can attest to the fact that Mountain Lake is a wonderful, natural retreat for all ages with all types of activities and fine dining. Sunday buffet is clearly a “destination restaurant” due to the excellent food and friendly service by all the hotel personnel. Plan a get-a-way. You will not be disappointed...and be sure to make a reservation for Sunday brunch.

For more information visit their web site



www.mtnlakelodge.com or phone 540-626-7121

Editor’s note: I attended one of the “Dirty Dancing” weekends at Mountain Lake in 2009 and found it a delightful and unique place to spend a few days. And the story of the disappearing lake was intriguing—how can a long-established lake just disappear in a few years?

~ Community News ~

New Photo Directory of Four Seasons Residents Coming in 2015

The Communications Committee is preparing to create a directory of Four Seasons residents that includes a photo of each resident. We think that such a directory would fill an important hole in allowing Four Seasons residents to communicate more effectively. All of us have had the experience of finding it difficult to be sure we have connected a face we know with the correct name, or vice versa. This new directory would help alleviate that problem for all residents.

The photo directory will be entirely optional — you won't be included unless you have seen the photo to be used and have given your approval for it to be included. An email will be sent to all residents giving details of the planned directory and the process for building it. We hope to make it as easy as possible for residents by using photos from the newsletter archives if possible. And, of course, if you have a favorite current photo of yourself that you like, we will be glad to use that.

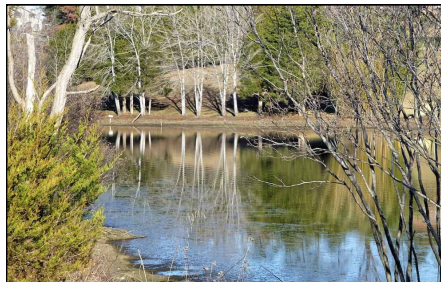
Four Seasons Has Its Own On-line Weather Station!

When you visit the Four Seasons website (our4seasons.org), the current weather conditions are always reported on the home page in the upper left-hand corner. And now those weather conditions are coming direct from a recently installed weather station in back of John and Barbara Ringle's home on Mistland Trail. John reports that his grandson gifted him with this weather station recently. Check it out on our website!



Lake Rucker Has Been Drained to Clear the Outlet Pipe

In December, the water level in Lake Rucker dropped quickly when contractors installed a siphon to drop the lake to below normal level. The drain to allow excess water to flow to the stream below the dam had become clogged and the lake had filled to a much higher than normal level. HC Land is having a contractor remedy the problem. The overflow drain is clearly visible now. The poor swans didn't quite know what to make of it!



— photos thanks to Larry Miller

Please Sign-in Each Time You Visit the Clubhouse!

It's not just busy-work. It matters because our sign-in sheets lead to usage reports that are used by the Board, MSC, and our committees to decide on changes in Clubhouse hours and closings.

~ Landscaping & Grounds Committee ~

"NAME THE POCKET PARKS "



Look at the map and turn in your suggestion for naming the pocket parks. Names should be fairly short and should be complimentary of our beautiful community!

Signatures are not necessary but encouraged (so we can give credit for any names that are chosen).

Turn in your recommendations to the front desk of the clubhouse.

The names chosen by the L & G Committee will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.



Suggested Names for Our Pocket Parks

Pocket Park #1

Pocket Park #2

Pocket Park #3

Pocket Park #4

Signature

~ **A Special Presentation Organized by the L&G Committee** ~

Four Seasons Residents, did you know that healthy plants and trees begin with healthy soil?

We hope you will join our Plant Health Care Specialist from Van Yahres Tree Company to hear how we care for the health of your entire landscape through our organic-based program, called **Green Watch**.

It all starts with healthy soil, and we will tell you why.

Friday, January 30, 2015

10:00 am

Card room in the Clubhouse

After the presentation by the plant care specialist (Sammy Terry), there will be opportunity for specific questions.

Contact Vibe Weber or Dianne Wilson for questions.



~~~~~

## It's For the Birds

### Dark-Eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*)

During the winter months in Virginia you may see a small slate colored bird with a white belly at your feeder. It is a Junco, often known as a "Snowbird". It is a common sparrow species (5 – 6 1/2 inches long) with a pinkish beak and dark eyes. Juncos, which are ground feeders, eat seeds and grains and will be at your feeder during the coldest wintery, snowy weather. When they disappear in March, you will know spring has come.

There are several subspecies of Junco, two of which inhabit or visit Virginia. One lives in the Appalachian Mountains and lowlands. Another, a northern subspecies of Junco is seen here during the winter but these birds leave Virginia to migrate back to the northern boreal (evergreen) forests.



Juncos are generally monogamous, laying 3-5 eggs per nesting. The nests, built by the female, are concealed on the ground or in low "structures"; 3-6 eggs are grayish with mottled coloring. Eggs are incubated 12 -13 days by the female. The young leave the nest 9 – 12 days after hatching. There are up to three broods in a year.

Juncos are found from Alaska to Mexico and from California to New York with an estimated population of 630 million. A banded Junco is known to live 11+ years!

So enjoy these small dark-eyed little birds during these cold months. When they leave, perhaps we'll see an Eastern Phoebe swooping around our yards....

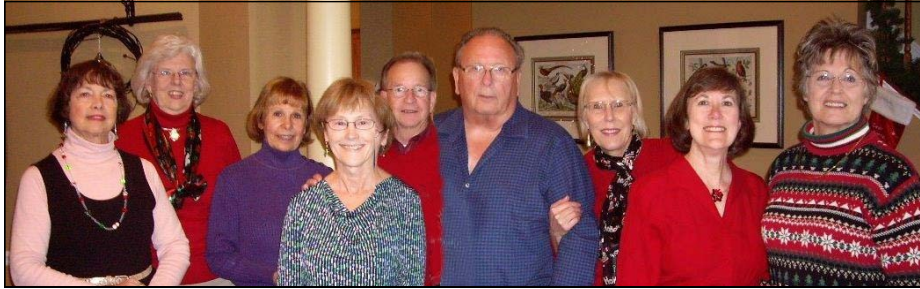
— story by Vibe Weber

## ~ Holiday Season Activities ~

### Caring Hands Holiday Tea

On Dec 12, as many of the Caring Hands group that could, gathered at John and Diane Horvath's home for a Holiday Tea. We all brought snacks and Diane served tea in her beautiful collection of tea pots and mugs and provided sandwiches. After enjoying lunch we assembled gift bags for a few residents in our community.

*Editor's note: Don't look too closely at this photo! Joe Reece took the photo (thanks Joe), but asked if I could also include him in the photo, so I did, with a little help from Photoshop!*



### YOUR FOUR SEASONS CARING HANDS TEAM. HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT US?

Caring Hands is a group of volunteers here in Four Seasons. Our mission is to help our neighbors on a temporary basis when they are ill or alone or in personal need.

What we can do:

- Provide transportation (give us 48 hours notice)
- Run errands, pick up groceries
- Pet care, walk your dog, check on them
- Provide a meal when needed
- Visit folks who are housebound

We cannot provide home nursing care, house cleaning services, or meals on a regular basis. We cannot dispense medications. There is a resource directory in our folder at the Clubhouse on the front desk that lists all our members and has a list of items available for loan, such as walkers, wheelchairs, bed commodes, etc. There is a sign-out sheet for these items.

Call a coordinator below for more info. If you know of someone in need here in our community or wish to become a volunteer please call or email us.

Chris Sauter 990-5790 or Marilyn Kiehn 985-7209



### December TTT Features Music and Dancing

The Clubhouse ballroom was filled with Four Seasons residents on Thursday, Dec. 18, for a fine evening of music, dancing, and socializing. Professional DJ Derek Tobler, son-in-law of Ed and Hope Meehan, provided the music as a gift to the community.



*~ Holiday Clubhouse Decorating Party and Sing-Along ~*



**The Clubhouse Decorating Team**

~~~~~



**Christmas Sing-along with the Ragged Ramblers Band
(Sue Campbell, Joe Brennan, Terry Pratt, Ron Wiggins, Doug Miller)**

~~~~~

*~ From the Last Issue: Do you know who this is? ~*



This good-looking boy...

... grew up to be ...



Joe in his new Mazda Miata

**Still young-at-heart Joe Preston!**

~ *New Years Eve Party* ~



Great food, great music, great company made for a delightful New Years Eve party at the Clubhouse.



The dance floor was often filled!

~~~~~

~ *The Annual Four Seasons 8-ball Tournament - 2014* ~

~ *The Winners Are!* ~
Joe Preston and Terry Pratt
Runners-up:
Len Lattiak and Rich Pietrzak



Joe and Terry hamming it up.



Teams participating

Jim Wilson / Peter Bowles	Joe Reece / John Normand
Dave Katz / Dixon Clark	Joe Preston / Terry Pratt
Art Pavelle / Joe Orsini	Jim Murray / Tim Sizer
Rich Pietrzak / Len Lattiak	Mike Avery / Spencer Crute
Doug Miller / Earl Cornette	Rich Pietrzak — <i>organizer</i>

January/February Dates to Remember

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Monday, February 2

Groundhog Day

Saturday, February 14

Valentine's Day



Monday, February 16

President's Day



Tuesday, February 17

Mardi Gras!

~ Calling all Foodies ~

Have you found a new restaurant lately that you would like to share with those in the community? Send an article to **blueridgbreeze@gmail.com** and tell us about your experience. What did you like and what didn't you like?



~ Special Birthday Celebration ~



Kathryn Benzinger was recently honored with dozens of cards for her 98th!

Happy Birthday, Kathryn!



Community Social Events



Thursday, January 15
**Third Thirsty Thursday
Soup & Chili Party**

Thursday, February 19
Valentines Day Party

Terry Pratt will DJ the music for both these events.



Watch for more information from the Social Committee about these and other events for the Community.

Surprise Your Spouse!

Send us a baby pic of your spouse for our "Guess Who?" monthly feature. We won't let them know. See if they recognize themselves when they read the newsletter!

~ Classified Ads ~

This section is for residents only and features any thing or service that you might want to sell or give away to other residents. Ads will usually be run for one issue of the newsletter and then removed. If you would like your ad to be run again, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

For Sale: All leather brown matching sofa, chair & ottoman. Set purchased new in 2008. Chair sat in only a few times. \$500 for the set or \$350 for the sofa, \$200 for chair & ottoman.

Also **Dresher Daybed (brass/white) with pop-up trundle.** Includes 2 extra foam mat/innersprings, cover & shams. Used gently. \$150 for all.

Contact **Jim/Alice Graszewicz** at 434-985-4199 or email jpg_aig@hotmail.com.

Small Electrical Services. Call **Harold Robbins**, 434-985-7202.

Free Notary Service. One day advance notice will be helpful. Email atrjs4p@virginia.edu or call **Rauzelle Smith** at 434-985-3395.

*Classified Ads Needed!
Send us your ads!*



Slow Down!
The speed limit throughout Four Seasons is 25 miles per hour.
Please don't speed!



Phone Numbers to Remember

Club House — 434-990-2012

Emergency — 911

Greene County Sheriff's Office — 434-985-2222

Identity Theft Hotline — 877-438-4338

National Do Not Call Registry — 888-382-1222

Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia — 804-648-0016

The Mountain Breeze at Four Seasons Charlottesville

*Published bimonthly for the
Four Seasons Charlottesville Community
by the*

Communications Committee

Don Brady, *chairman*

Terry Pratt, *newsletter editor*

Larry Miller Vera Reece

Arnie Silverman Coleen Sizer

Dianne Wilson

Any fact, opinion, or information expressed in an article is that of the author and not of the Four Seasons at Charlottesville Community Association, Inc. The representations, opinions, facts, or information set forth in the articles are not binding on the Association nor are the views and opinions expressed in the articles the views or opinions of the Four Seasons Community Association. This publication is provided for information purposes only. All content is copyright protected, copyright 2015 by the Four Seasons at Charlottesville Community Association, Inc.

Got a Good Story to Tell Us!

Send pictures and details to
blueridgebreeze@gmail.com

Many thanks to those people who have submitted articles for the newsletter. If you do not see your article in this edition, we will try to include it in a later issue!

The Communications Committee reserves the right to edit any article for length or clarity.

**The deadline for the 2015 Mar/Apr issue is
February 28!**

Send all submissions to

blueridgebreeze@gmail.com