



THE MOUNTAIN MEMO

VOL. 7, NO. 2

JUN 1991

HOT DOGS, CORN ON THE COB, BEER AND HORSESHOES; THAT'S A GREAT FOURTH OF JULY!

SEE WHAT A LITTLE VISION CAN DO

Should you come up to the mountain, pay particular notice to Gerry Suznevich's "Rock Garden". She has done amazing things to their yard. Her flower and vegetable gardens are lovely. She and Pepe have certainly pioneered the way for the rest of us.

Comments from Shirley

SEE WEST VIRGINIA ON A HORSE

West Virginia state parks offer horseback riding through forests and scenic trails. Visitors will be able to choose from a variety of daily and/or overnight trail rides. Trail rides begin at Cacapon State park on Memorial Day and last until Labor Day.

For more information on this or other events or lodging, contact Cacapon State park or call (304) 348-2764 or 1-800-CALL WVA.

HOW CLOSE IS THE MOUNTAIN LAUREL TO THE RHODODENDRON?



SAFETY BELT LAWS IN WEST VIRGINIA

I know the little reminders that say "Buckle up" are hardly even noticed any more and I won't preach but I will spell out the law in West Virginia.

In West Virginia, children under the age of three must ride in safety seats. Those between the ages of three and five are permitted to use either safety seats or safety belts. Children between five and nine years old must use safety belts.

However, West Virginia is one of thirteen states having no law regulating safety belt use by adults. Please drive safely this newsletter does not have an obituary column.

NOTES FROM THE RESIDENTS

For those of you who were on the mountain on the Memorial Day weekend, you witnessed a spectacular display of nature's wild flora. In particular the Mountain Laurel a member of the Heath family (Ericaceae). This family includes the Rhododendron and the Azalea. The Rhododendron is the state flower of West Virginia.

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TRY ORGANIC GARDENING FOR A TASTY DISH

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Home gardeners who want to make certain their food is pesticide-free can use organic methods to grow their vegetables.

Organic gardening requires careful preparation and attention. It is particularly suited for a home gardener since he or she usually cultivates only a small plot and devotes individual care to each plant. Therefore, costs are not prohibitive.

To grow vegetables and flowers organically, you must first determine the condition of the soil and then add natural products to meet any deficiencies. A soil test is the first step.

Organic matter is the natural source of much of the nitrogen and phosphorous in the soil. Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are used in greater quantities than any other essential nutrients. Growth and yield often are limited by a deficiency in one of them.

To provide these and other essential nutrients, such as calcium, magnesium and sulfur, you must supply an adequate amount of natural products, including lime (preferably finely ground), dolomitic limestone and organic matter. Do not add lime without first having the soil tested. Organic matter also will improve soil structure for drainage.

Natural organic materials can help reduce evaporation, maintain even soil temperatures and prevent erosion.

Mulching with organic material, such as sawdust, compost, manures, straw, peat moss and leaves, is the most practical method of controlling weeds. Mulching saves time and energy and eliminates the problem of root damage and plant loss that hoeing may cause.

Old straw or hay that is free of seed is ideal. If seeds of any kind are put on with the mulching material, the seeds can add to the weed potential for years.

When the crops are harvested, do not remove the organic mulch. Let it decompose in the garden and then work it into the soil next spring.

For more information on organic gardening and soil testing, contact West Virginia University's Morgan County Extension office at 258-1431.



ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER 20% OF OWNERS

Our annual meeting was held on May 4 1991. It was disappointing that there were not more people attending but very nice to see some of the "regulars" again.

The 'Road Report' was given. Estimates to have the steep portion of Hill Road have been received and it was decided that it would be too expensive to consider at this time. Paving would cost \$10,800 and 'Tar and Chip' would cost about \$4,000. We have since found out any road improvement might increase all our property taxes.

New Board members are Mauricio Torres and Howard Smith. Alternates will be Bill Payne and Dave Klaas. Bud Wyman is our Chairman. Secretary and co-chairman will be decided at our next Board meeting. It is encouraging to have new people interested in being on the Board of Trustees.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to express our appreciation for all the work that Kay Roach and Karin Day have done during their terms of office. Kay has been a member since 1986 and has served well as both secretary and chairman. Thank you Kay, for all your hard work. Karin Day served for a year and a half and did an excellent job as secretary. Unfortunately both ladies hold full time jobs and have a lot of family commitments. Again, we appreciate their fine work and dedication.

If anyone is interested in a copy of the minutes from the annual meeting and a budget report please send me a request with SASE and I will mail it to you.

I would also like to comment that there were reservations made for the annual meeting and six people did not show up. We would appreciate being contacted if you cannot attend. We had to pay for

their dinners because they were in the final count. Road maintenance fees have been collected with the exception of one property owner. If I do not hear shortly, I will have no choice but put a lien on their property.

Again, if anyone has any concerns they would like to express, feel free to contact any of the Board members.

Hope you have an enjoyable summer on the mountain!

Shirley DePaolis, Treasurer

CONT. FROM Pg. 1

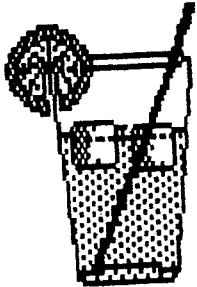
The Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) aka "Calico-bush" and "Ivybush" is one of the most beautiful native flowering shrubs. The stamens of the flowers have a springlike mechanism which spreads pollen when tripped by a bee. The leaves which are poisonous to livestock, and are seldom browsed. Honey from the flowers is believed to be poisonous.

This flower can be found from Maine to Florida and west to Indiana and Louisiana. It will grow in a dry or moist acid soil, in the understory of mixed forests on upland mountain slopes and in valleys.

Now that you are familiar with this piece of flora. I hope you were one of the many visitors on the mountain to view these magnificent blooms. Over my ten years of visiting the mountain have I been more impressed with the display then I have this spring. It's quite possible that I am more aware of the flora and fauna in this area this spring because I live in the middle of it now.

For those who have not been to the mountain for some time, a year or two maybe, you'll find that the natural growth has changed the whole complexion of the area. It's more private and from the roads it seems almost primitive.

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FIRST CLASS

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Correction Requested



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