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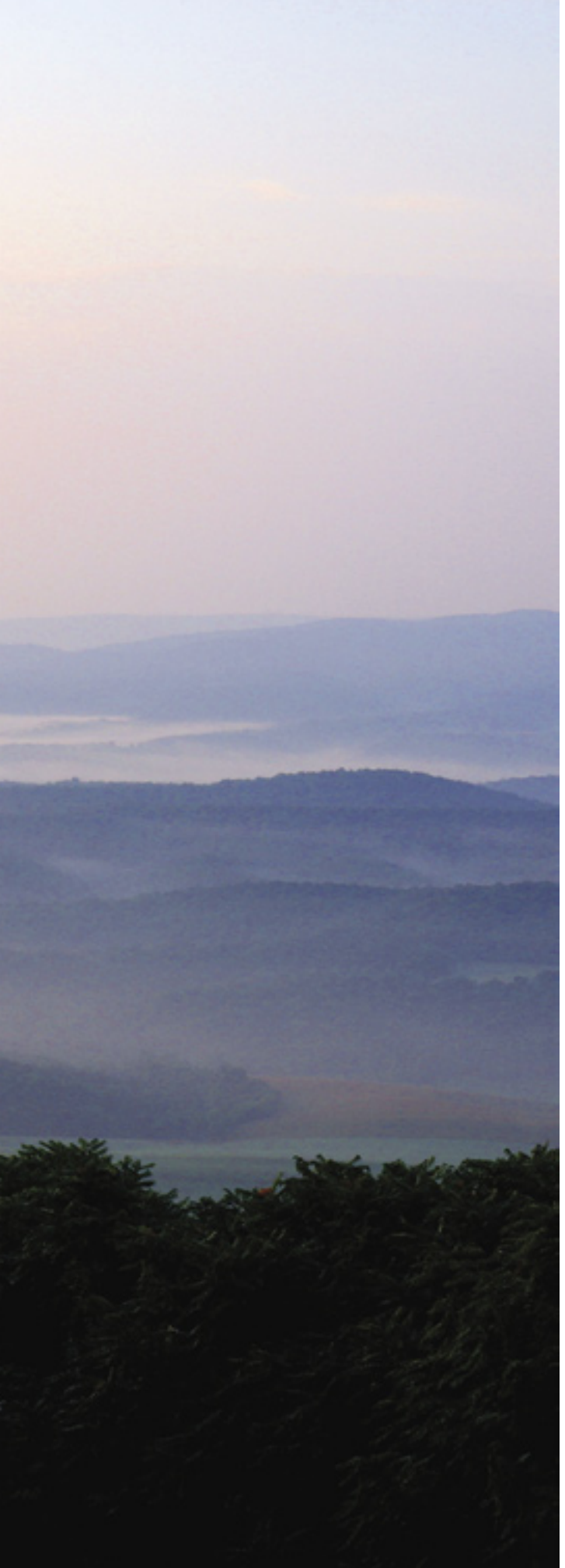

Mountain Discoveries™

Mountain Discoveries is a FREE publication printed twice yearly — Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. *Mountain Discoveries* is focused on the Western Maryland region including neighboring Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. The magazine features people, activities, places and articles of interest, and is written and produced by people in this area.

Mountain Discoveries web site (www.mountaindiscoveries.com) is an active part of this publication, and is used to communicate and showcase feature stories and our advertisers.

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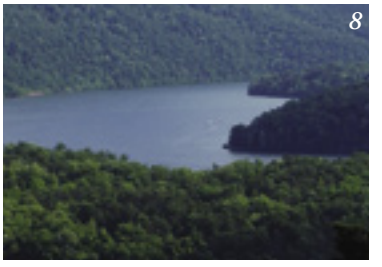

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BATTLE OF NEW

"Put the boys in…"

Staunton, Va., May 10, 1864
Maj. Gen. F. H. Smith, Supt. VMI:

Sigel is moving up the Valley—was at Strasburg last night. I cannot tell you whether this is his destination. I would be glad to have your assistance at once with the cadets and the section of artillery. Bring all the forage and rations you can…

Yours respectfully,
John C. Breckinridge, Major General

With this terse communication to Francis H. Smith, Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge called into service a group of young men that one historian has called "the Seed Corn of the Confederacy." While Breckinridge neither desired nor intended to commit the VMI Cadets to battle, his summons demonstrated the desperate situation the Confederacy confronted in the Shenandoah Valley and elsewhere in the Spring of 1864.

Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's strategy was to overwhelm the Confederacy's fragile resources by attacking in multiple places at the same time. Grant would personally accompany Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac in its confrontation with Lee's army, which was compelled to shield Richmond from the north. In the Shenandoah Valley, Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel would lead

A view of the "Field of Lost Shoes".

The Bushong farmhouse.

MARKET 1864

a Union army of better than 10,000 on a march south to take Staunton and Lynchburg, thereby depriving the Confederacy of the Valley's agricultural bounty, military stores, and vital rail connections.

To counter the Union assault, Lee assigned command of the Department of Western Virginia to John C. Breckinridge. Former U.S. Vice President, Senator, and runner-up to Lincoln in the 1860 election, Breckinridge had proven himself an effective field commander in the western theater. Lee now called upon him to organize Confederate resistance in a territory of 18,000 square miles that encompassed the Shenandoah Valley and portions of present-day West Virginia. Breckinridge had at his disposal a widely-scattered assortment of veteran infantry regiments, partisan cavalry units and native militia and home-guard units that numbered fewer than 5,000.

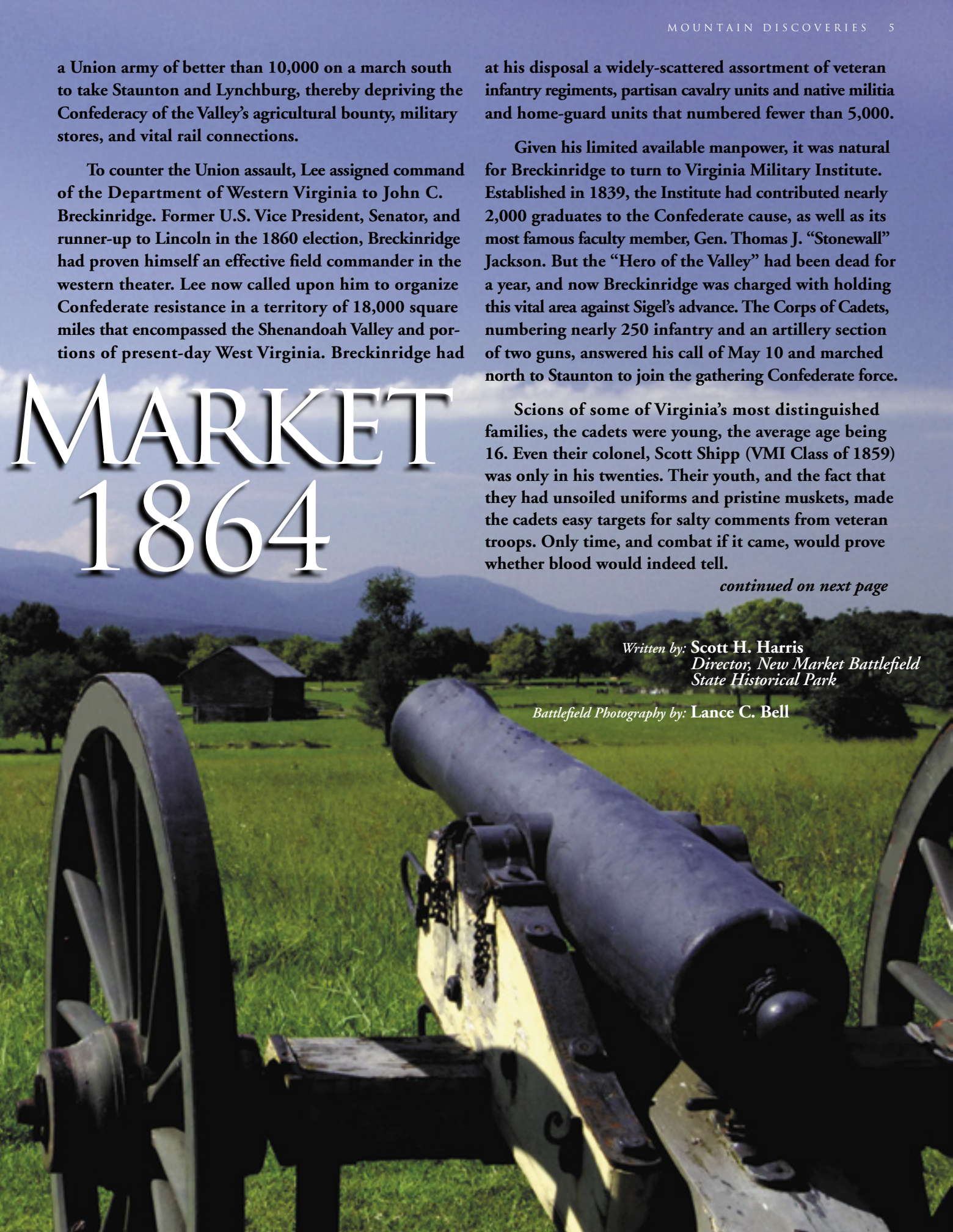
Given his limited available manpower, it was natural for Breckinridge to turn to Virginia Military Institute. Established in 1839, the Institute had contributed nearly 2,000 graduates to the Confederate cause, as well as its most famous faculty member, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. But the "Hero of the Valley" had been dead for a year, and now Breckinridge was charged with holding this vital area against Sigel's advance. The Corps of Cadets, numbering nearly 250 infantry and an artillery section of two guns, answered his call of May 10 and marched north to Staunton to join the gathering Confederate force.

Scions of some of Virginia's most distinguished families, the cadets were young, the average age being 16. Even their colonel, Scott Shipp (VMI Class of 1859) was only in his twenties. Their youth, and the fact that they had unsoiled uniforms and pristine muskets, made the cadets easy targets for salty comments from veteran troops. Only time, and combat if it came, would prove whether blood would indeed tell.

continued on next page

Written by: **Scott H. Harris**
Director, New Market Battlefield State Historical Park

Battlefield Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**



Sigel's southward advance was slow and careful. By detaching portions of his cavalry to deal with threats from Confederate partisans, he reduced the force that would fight at New Market. A clash between Union and Confederate cavalry at New Market Gap in Massanutten Mountain on May 13 set the stage for the battle that would occur two days later. The only crossing point along the 45-mile ridge, the gap provided ready access to eastern Virginia, where Grant and Lee were preparing for their series of grinding battles. Sigel ordered Col. Augustus Moor to take an improvised brigade to New Market, where on the 14th they forced Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. John D. Imboden to withdraw until Breckinridge could arrive with the main army.

Reinactment photo courtesy New Market Battlefield Museum

The morning of May 15 brought intermittent thunderstorms and the promise of decisive battle at New Market. Moor's Union troops held the town, and exchanged artillery fire with Confederate batteries on Shirley's Hill, roughly a mile to the South. Breckinridge had virtually his entire force on hand, numbering nearly 5,000. In contrast, Sigel's larger army was scattered down the Valley Pike nearly 20 miles; barely 6,000 men would be engaged, giving the Confederates better odds.

While Breckinridge hoped the Union army would attack his strong position on Shirley's Hill, it soon became apparent that the reverse was true. Moor withdrew his troops to Bushong's Hill on the farm of the same name north and west of New Market, sending urgent messages for the rest of the army to join him. Seizing the momentum, Breckinridge declared "I can attack and whip them here, and I'll do it." He ordered a general advance from Shirley's Hill, taking a position on Manor's Hill south of the Bushong farmhouse (where the terrified family had taken refuge in their basement). While the rest of the southern troops ran down the hill, the inexperienced cadets, marching with parade ground precision, suffered their first casualties from Union artillery fire.

Throughout the morning, the two battle lines exchanged musket and cannon fire across the Bushongs' sodden wheat fields. Twice Sigel ordered charges that fell apart from lack of coordination. Despite the lack of progress, the Union fire savaged the Confederate regiments sufficiently to open a gap in the center of their line north of the Bushongs' orchard. With no other reserves available, Breckinridge reluctantly ordered the VMI cadets into line, saying, "Put the boys in, and may God forgive me for the order."

The four companies of cadets divided around the Bushong house and regrouped along a fence at the edge of the field some 200 yards from the Union line. When a cavalry assault ordered by Sigel was repulsed, Breckinridge sensed the moment had come for the climactic charge, and ordered his entire line forward. As the cadets moved through the muddy, ruined wheat, many had the shoes sucked from their feet, giving the ground the legendary name the "Field of Lost Shoes." The Confederate charge drove Sigel's army back across Smith Creek and captured several cannon that could not be removed in time. One of the guns was taken by the cadets, giving them the ultimate infantryman's prize in their baptism of fire.

As disorganization and low ammunition slowed the Confederate attack, a Union artillery battery commanded by Capt. Henry du Pont arrived in time to cover the Union retreat with effective fire. Breckinridge called a halt and sent the cadets to the rear, declaring, "Well done, Virginians. Well done, men." Overall, Sigel's army had more than 800 men killed, wounded, or missing, while Breckinridge's losses topped 500. Ten VMI cadets had been killed or had received mortal wounds, and another 50 would recover from other wounds. Blood did tell, indeed.

The Confederate triumph at New Market safeguarded the left flank of the Army of Northern Virginia, and helped prolong the Civil War for another year. For the Shenandoah Valley, the fruits of victory were short-lived. Two days after the battle, Breckinridge and most of his command left to join Lee's army in the fight against Grant. A reconstituted Federal army under a new commander, Gen. David Hunter, marched south to Lexington and burned VMI in retaliation for the cadets' role at New Market. The destruction was overseen, under protest, by Henry du Pont. [Decades later, as a United States Senator, du Pont would sponsor legislation to compensate VMI for the damage, allowing construction in 1915 of Jackson Memorial Hall. This building is today home of the VMI Museum, and features a massive painting of the charge of the VMI Cadets at New Market by Benjamin West Clinedinst.]

The enduring image of the Battle of New Market is the participation of the VMI cadets. While they did not fight

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Raystown Lake...

I did most of my growing up near Raystown Lake. My family relocated to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania in 1993 and has remained here since. Before that, we came from a very busy suburb of Philadelphia on the Jersey side, so you can image my surprise when I had to call up two more friends to come join me in my first adventure to the local movie theatre. It was the theatre's policy to only show the movie for six or more people. There were four of us.

Thankfully, my charm convinced my other buds and their understanding chauffeurs to drive down to see the show. Where would we be without moms?

It was a time for pulling out all of the stops though. This was a movie I HAD to see. This was a movie that I would graciously give up my hard-earned four dollars of allowance. This was Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*. I was eleven and you can imagine the excitement I felt when I first saw these digital dinos come to life.

Do you remember the movie? Do you remember riding in the helicopter? You enter the canyon and slowly descend into a world that is not at all like you are used to. As you exit the 'copter you transfer your gear into the Jeep Wrangler, equipped for the off road environment. This truly has become an adventure.

Then, as promised your Wrangler slides to a halt and you find yourself taken back millions of years as you stare at this epic creature. "I can't believe I am seeing this," is what went through my eleven-year-old imaginative mind. For those that are unwilling to suspend their disbelief and admit these creatures are real…"I can't believe Spielberg can make them *seem* so real!"

I go into such nostalgic cinematic detail because it is the best analogy I can come up with to describe my first adventure to Raystown Lake. "It's like 37 miles long," my friends tried to prepare me. I eventually found out its more like 30, but still you have to admit that's impressive and I wanted to see it.

Packed in our minivan, my family and I followed the winding roads toward our version of the prehistoric giant. Passing fields of corn and cow, I am starting to realize that I truly am in a new environment, but strangely, I begin to appreciate the pace, the smells, and most importantly the views.

We ascend the last hill and the lake reveals itself, slowly, majestically. It is as if I am back in that Jeep staring at this enormous gentle creature proud to exist and determined to stay. I gasp in disbelief. "It's even bigger than I imagined."

"Take One"

Written by: **Sean Waddle**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

I wanted it all to myself when I first got there, but I guess that's how the lake presents itself. You see nothing but an expanse of water and trees that welcome you to the endless Allegheny Mountains.

"I can't believe I am seeing this," I think to myself. However my disbelief is suspended as I learn that Raystown has its own Spielberg. The lake is a man made lake, but to its credit, it is the largest man made lake East of the Mississippi River.

Today I work in an office that overlooks Raystown Lake. In fact, I am privileged to do so. The reality is that my office is located on the 2% developed lands around the 118 miles of shoreline. As I read about other lakes that claim to be natural, I visit to compare. In fact they are the opposite. I see house on top of house, hotels everywhere, and private docks with no admittance. I think of how Raystown Lake today has maintained this impeccable balance between being man made, developed, and recreational and preserving the ecology of this environment. Many efforts have been taken to bring back native species that were once threatened. Nationally recognized trails have been built for bird watchers, nature enthusiasts and people who just like to exercise. Lands are public and everyone should feel welcome.

My job is simply to get people to come visit the Raystown Lake Region and while they are here, get them as excited about it as I am. The second part of my job is simple. When people are here the landscape has that thought-provoking element to it. I consider this article as an accomplishment of the first aspect of my job.

Consider this an invitation to the area. I am inviting you to step aboard that helicopter and escape your everyday lives. Take the winding roads that lead you to your ultimate destination. You will not need the perspective of an eleven-year-old boy watching dinosaurs to get you excited for what you are about to see. Whether it be the immediate beauty of the beast that captures you or the outstanding craftsmanship of our Spielberg, I can tell you your first glimpse of Raystown and its surrounding communities will stay in your minds and hearts for many years.

For more information on the Raystown Lake Region call **1-888-RAYSTOWN** or visit **www. Raystown.org**.

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Dining In Class

Culinaire Café

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Historic downtown Cumberland is bustling with boutiques, art galleries, sidewalk festivals, cafes, commercial institutions, and special events. One of the town's most unique attractions in recent years combines the efforts of a local college, downtown mall managers, and government programs. Cumberland's Town Center hosts the Culinaire Café, a lunch time experience that offers soups, salads, sandwiches and entrees prepared by Allegany College students under the guidance of professionally trained chef-instructors.

The Culinaire Café's success would not have been possible without the vision and cooperation of residents who saw the potential of modifying a historic building and expanding programs at Allegany College of Maryland. According to David Sanford, Program Coordinator of Culinary Arts at Allegany College, the café had its genesis in conversations between Ed Mullaney and Sue Cerutti who sought to develop a program in the McCrory building that would attract young people to the downtown area.

Co-managers of the Downtown Mall, both Ed and Sue have been instrumental in Cumberland's renaissance and were seeking to find a sustainable program to rejuvenate the vacant McCrory building on Baltimore Street. Ed and Sue approached Dr. Donald Alexander, President of Allegany College of Maryland, about viewing the property to see if a program could be incorporated into the building. Also attending the initial meeting was Deb Frank, Program Director for Hospitality Management at Allegany College, and David Sanford. At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Alexander asked Deb and David, "What do you think we can do?" The answer: a series of partnerships resulting in the Culinaire Café's grand opening in 2002.

Working with Appalachian Regional Commission matching grants, in-kind contributions from restaurants and private citizens, and matching college grants, three closely related programs were able to expand from their Willowbrook Road campus to Town Center: Culinary Arts, Hotel Management and Travel Tourism. Fortunately, Allegany County had already invested nearly one million dollars to upgrade the historic McCrory building into a business incubator project intending to attract commercial/retail interest to the site, so the location proved to be a good match. And the college programs work to coordinate their efforts at the Culinaire Café. According to Deb Frank, "The culinary arts students operate the kitchen and the hotel management students work the front of the house; the two programs operate simultaneously."

Front (l to r): Dave Sanford, Program Coordinator of Culinary Arts at Allegany College of Maryland; Heather Bell, Ashley Lopez, Cheryl Combs, and Amanda Payne. Back (l to r): Justin Walker, Kevin Gamble, Caleb Exstrom, Stephen Scott, John Keller, Mike DeVore, and David Fringer.

Students enrolled in Culinary Arts and Hotel Management programs must meet Allegany College academic requirements and be prepared to receive skill instructions and evaluations. David Sanford is a Culinary Institute of America graduate who oversees students training to be employed as cooks, sous-chefs, executive chefs, culinary educators, kitchen managers, and food sales representatives. "Our primary goal is to provide hands on, real life experiences that will translate into employment for our students. To accomplish that, we emphasize training fundamentals. Our students practice every day." According to David, that training has paid dividends. "Ninety percent of our students already work in the industry because they are employed throughout the Tri-State area. Our students have been sought after and have been well received." Evidence of the program's success can be found in the 100 lunches served daily on a Tuesday through Friday schedule. An upstairs conference center equipped with 50 seats has recently been added so that students can plan for group events as well as individually prepared meals. Lecture rooms, a bakery, a dry storage room and first rate cooking equipment complete the facilities.

Deb Frank, Program Director for Hospitality Management at Allegany College of Maryland.

Student, Stephen Scott, prepares cabbage for cole slaw.

Typically 60 students are enrolled in the Culinary Arts and Hotel Management programs. Deb Frank notes, "Since we moved here, our enrollment has tripled. We now attract students from Somerset, Pennsylvania, and the Eastern shore of Maryland." Due to an anticipated shortage of trained personnel in the culinary field, the state of Maryland has designated the ACM program to have in-county tuition rates for all Maryland residents. Allegany College has also partnered with Frostburg State University to provide an 18 credit hour offering for Recreational Leadership students, thus adding one more dimension to a successful program.

Cheryl Combs, student, arranging fresh fruit bowls.

Student, Caleb Exstrom, displaying a tempting dessert tray.

David Sanford states, "My biggest surprise is how the community has embraced us. We couldn't practice our skills without community support. It's amazing because we have friends coming to the café from all over the area."

The Culinaire Café doors open at 11:30 AM on a Tuesday through Friday schedule, depending on the college calendar. So, head for Town Center, enjoy a delicious lunch, and witness a successful program in action.

Student, John Keller, prepares a flambé sauce.

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MARYLAND'S FOREST AN

Written by: **Dan Whetzel** *Photography by:* **Lance C. Bell**

Photo courtesy Dan Whetzel

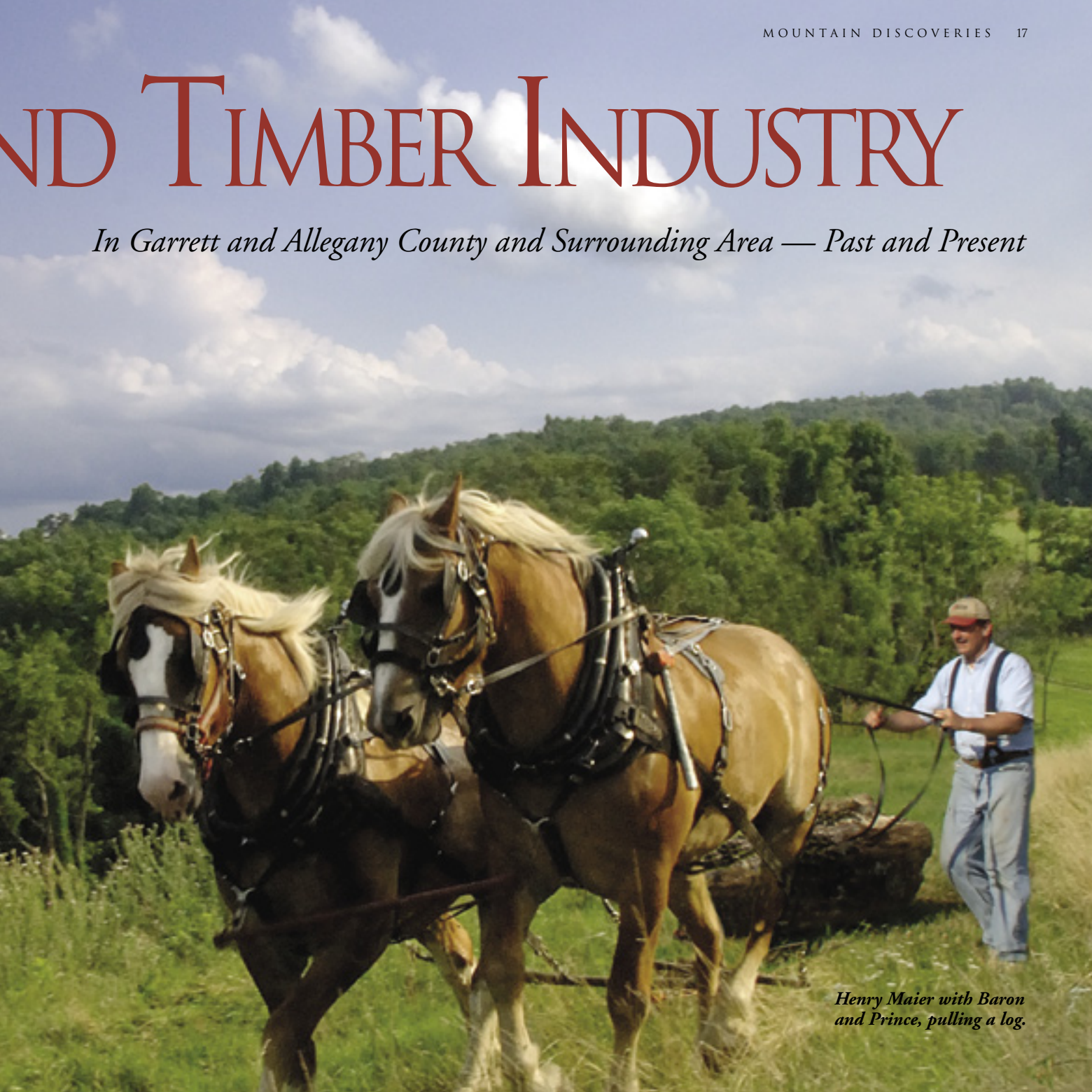
Clark's Mill, Maple Run, WV could cut 6,000 to 10,000 board feet per day and was powered by a small steam engine. Such mills were typical in the Upper Potomac River Valley in the late 19th Century. The location of Maple Run is where the coal mining town of Hubbard, WV was later established along the Potomac River.

The mountains and river valleys of Western Maryland, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania were covered with magnificent forests long before recorded history. The first written references by explorers to the area identified immense hardwood trees—oaks, sycamores, poplars, chestnuts, and walnuts thriving in the valleys. Further up the mountains they found pine, maple, and birch trees. Primeval plateaus, covered with red spruce, dense rhododendron, and laurel virtually blocked the sunlight creating a gloomy, mysterious shading of the landscape that must have been forbidding even to those brave enough to explore the forests. And the forest vista stretched as far as one could see in all directions because centuries of American Indian occupation of the lands did little to disturb them; neither did the first European trappers and hunters who made scant permanent marks on the landscape. That situation changed quickly, however, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution and the demand for natural resources that ensued. Vast tracts of timber and enormous seams of coal beckoned entrepreneurs who risked financial assets to establish businesses in the area. The natural resources that fueled factories, steam engines, and other capital projects could be found within the Western Maryland mountains that nurtured them for a millennia.

Pioneers to the region utilized the forest for the necessities of life. Specific uses for timber were primarily limited to family needs; the commercial benefits of trees awaited the future. The time and energy required in cutting down trees and fashioning them into lumber was a formidable task. In the mid to late Eighteenth Century, cutting lumber involved the use of a two-handled whipsaw, an implement approximately five feet in length. One worker standing on the log and the other one at the bottom of a pit provided for the labor intensive job of sawing. Increased demand for lumber fostered development of water sawmills, a great improvement in efficiency over whipsawed planks as up to 500 linear feet of wood could be processed in one day. Watermills were soon surpassed by steam powered mills that propelled a circular saw. These mills were relatively portable and were quickly established throughout the region by the 1880's. Their productivity is evidenced by the millions of feet of timber they sawed in a relatively short span of years. Improved efficiency in cutting, transporting, and sawing trees had to be a welcome relief to workers because the logs could be enormous in size. Reportedly, the largest tree sawed in Western Maryland was harvested in nearby West Virginia and transported to the Crellin Mill, a large facility about three miles from Oakland, Maryland. The tree measured 13 feet in diameter, 16 feet from the

ND TIMBER INDUSTRY

In Garrett and Allegany County and Surrounding Area — Past and Present



Henry Maier with Baron and Prince, pulling a log.

ground. This tree and other similar ones that were too large for transporting in train log cars or skidding with teams of horses had to be drilled and split by dynamite into quarters before being moved.

Improved efficiency of sawmills affected the transportation of logs to the facility and lumber from it. Sawmills tended to follow development of railroads, so a limited amount of timber was easily acquired because the rail company's right of way work required logging. Logs could be hauled via a wagon in close proximity to the mill but had to be pulled or "skidded" by teams of horses, mules, or oxen from more distant locations. The skid paths could be modified by laying hardwood planks to improve the footing of horse teams. Skid paths snaked across many local mountains as horse teams labored under the guidance of a driver to deliver their cargo.

Photo courtesy Dan Whetzel

J.L. Rumbarger Lumber Company operated at Dobbin in Grant County, WV in 1898. This Shay locomotive appears to be transporting bark for tanning operations.

Log slides were also used to move logs. This method employed two strings of logs resting on round ties. They were particularly effective on grades of 5-25%. Teams of horses were used in conjunction with the sliding process.

When timber resources were exhausted in a particular area, the mill owners faced two choices, move the mill upstream or move the logs downstream. Often the latter decision was made, and rafts were built. The floating devices could hold approximately 70 logs. Where rafts were not feasible, "splash dams" were constructed to hold back a sufficient supply of water. Logs were then rolled into the temporary dam. When the gates opened, a torrent of water was released, carrying the logs downstream. The mill at Crellin used this as one method of delivery to the facility.

The productivity of Crellin's sawmill is evidenced by the fact that it became the largest one in the state of Maryland between the years 1892 and 1925. Specifically, 34,000 railroad ties, 3,000 car loads of bark, 18,000 locust posts, 15,000 telephone poles, and 3000 cars of pulp wood were shipped during that time. Owners of the mill, Preston and Kendall, supported a payroll that ranged between 270 and 750 workers, making the company a major regional employer.

Railroads proved to be the most efficient carriers of timber to Crellin and other area saw mills. "Little Black Joe," "A. Lewis," "Old Dewey," and "Four Spot" were the names of locomotives pulling log cars into Crellin around 1900. The Confluence & Oakland Railroad served a similar role in the Friendsville area while the Green Ridge and Kulp Railroad serviced eastern Allegany County more than a century ago. And many other small rail lines wound their way through the valleys of the region to extract the fallen trees for transport to sawmills.

As the 20th Century moved forward, rail transportation continued its association with the timber industry because logs can be moved efficiently by trains. Changes occurred at the point of fallen trees, however, because traditional horse and mule operations largely disappeared following World War II. Advances in mechanized equipment for cutting, loading, and transporting timber made the new method more cost effective when clear cutting large tracts of forest, while also making animals seem outdated and unnecessary to the process. Yet, as the 21st Century unfolds, the old ways may find new applications in the logging industry. Environmental concerns about the application of heavy machinery in wooded areas have been expressed in recent years.

Western Maryland is still blessed with thousands of acres of forest. The state of Maryland manages some of those acres through a state forestry program to ensure that they will be conserved for future generations. And the timber industry is still working in the region as customers ranging from sawmill operators, to kiln businesses, to lumber yards, to individual craftsmen, and even to major industries, depend on the forest for their resources. Fortunately, Western Maryland has managed to retain many of those forest resources for business, residents and vacationers.

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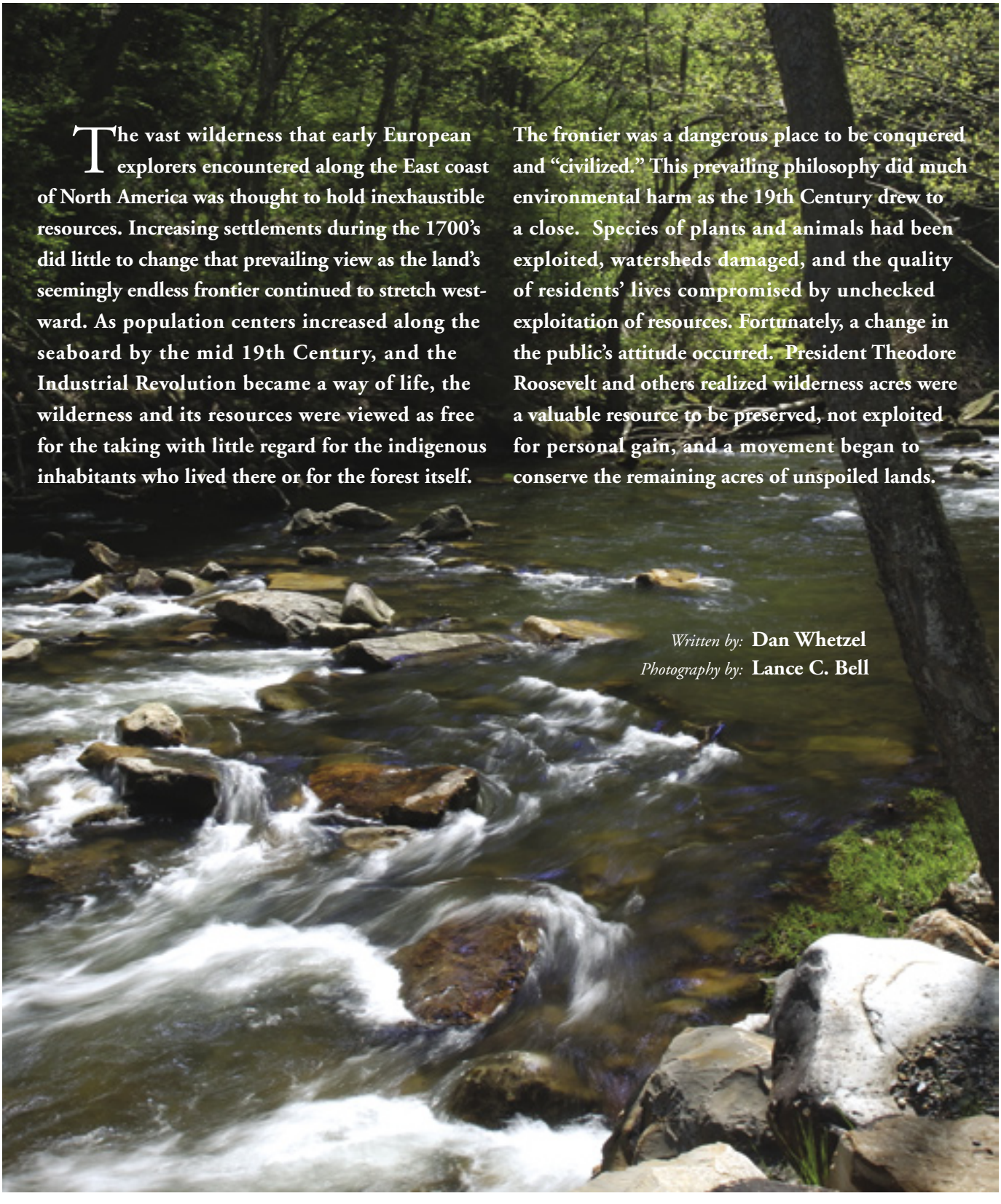
Preserving Natural Resources In the Timber Industry

One Hundred Years - Maryland Forest Service

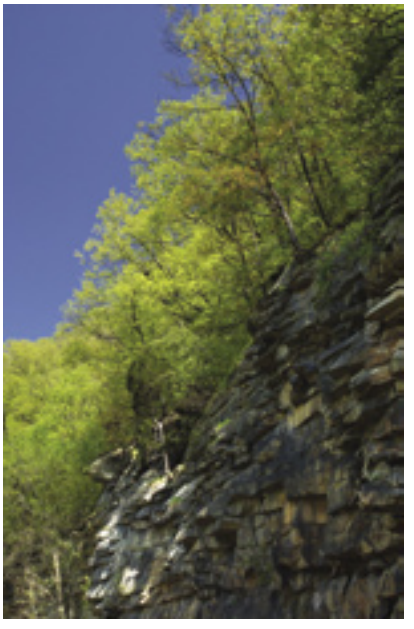


The vast wilderness that early European explorers encountered along the East coast of North America was thought to hold inexhaustible resources. Increasing settlements during the 1700's did little to change that prevailing view as the land's seemingly endless frontier continued to stretch westward. As population centers increased along the seaboard by the mid 19th Century, and the Industrial Revolution became a way of life, the wilderness and its resources were viewed as free for the taking with little regard for the indigenous inhabitants who lived there or for the forest itself. The frontier was a dangerous place to be conquered and "civilized." This prevailing philosophy did much environmental harm as the 19th Century drew to a close. Species of plants and animals had been exploited, watersheds damaged, and the quality of residents' lives compromised by unchecked exploitation of resources. Fortunately, a change in the public's attitude occurred. President Theodore Roosevelt and others realized wilderness acres were a valuable resource to be preserved, not exploited for personal gain, and a movement began to conserve the remaining acres of unspoiled lands.

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Maryland blended with the change in attitude as concerned individuals realized that some government control was necessary if natural resources were to be managed and protected for the common good. The need to preserve Maryland's forest resources was evident by the early 1900's because only 35 percent of the state was covered by woodlands as compared to 90 percent when European settlers arrived.

Philanthropists and political figures formed an alliance in 1906 to create the Maryland State Board of Forestry and the first state owned forest, known as Potomac Garrett State Forest of Garrett County. According to John Denning, of Maryland's Forest Service in Garrett County, the initial philanthropic offering was by John and Robert Garrett who provided 2,000 acres of woodlands in Western Maryland contingent upon the organization of a state forestry service, hence the board's creation by the state legislature in 1906. The early goals of the board focused on restoring the state's timber supply, curtailing erosion, enhancing wildlife habitats, and creating outdoor recreational opportunities. Maryland had moved from the exploitation phase of natural resources to one of conservation.



Maryland's first State Forester, Fred W. Besley, played a key role in the success and expansion of the state's programs. During his tenure from 1906 to 1942, Maryland's public forest and park land increased from 1,917 acres to 117,000 acres. Included in the land purchases were Swallow Falls State Park, Savage River State Forest, and Green Ridge State Forest, all well-known resources in Western Maryland. With the implementation of President Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps program in the 1930s, the federal government boosted the state's ability to expand its own purchases and programs including those at New Germany and Herrington Manor in Garrett County. With expansion of land and programs, the Forestry Department decided to divide forests and parks into separate programs under the administration of the Department of Natural Resources.

Today, the Maryland Forest Service manages nearly 200,000 acres of public forest lands, and the Maryland Park Service administers 131,000 acres of public parklands. Maryland forests, both private and public, contribute significantly to the state's economy. According to the Department of Natural Resources, Maryland households spend nearly 450 million dollars on the many products produced from trees. The pulpwood industry alone employs over 9,300 workers across the state. As Maryland's Forest Service marks its 100th anniversary in 2006, challenges are ongoing because recreational, environmental, industrial, and various economic interests continue to compete for natural resources that are found within the woodlands.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of forest conservation in Maryland, a number of special events were planned. Arbor Day and the 100th anniversary of the state's forestry program occurred on the same day in 2006, providing an opportunity to highlight Maryland's Big Tree Program. Initiated in 1925, Department of Natural Resources officials have annually recorded the largest tree within each species found within Maryland. In 2006 the Largest Tree Award went to a silver maple located in Edger Park, a community in Cecil County. The tree measures 27.0 feet in circumference, 4.5 feet from the ground. The Forest Service also distributed seedlings to third grade students throughout the state on Arbor Day while a cenTREEenial program was announced for all students to participate in throughout the academic year. A Forest Service "Centennial Calendar" is available that identifies special activities at each state forest location throughout the year.

During the next 10 years, a large amount of Maryland sawtimber will be sold, so proper management of the forests is crucial to reforesting the land. The Department of Natural Resources notes, "The future of our trees and forests depends on sound forest management."

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Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Tree Farming In Western Maryland

Did you ever wonder the purpose of those rows of plastic tubes that can be seen standing in groups along roadways and streams? The answer—CREP. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is managed by the state of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Farm Service Agency. Its purpose is to establish grasslands and forests along streams that will improve water quality and provide wildlife benefits.

According to Dan Hedderick, Forester, "The idea of the CREP program is to create buffer areas and then pay the landowner an annual rental payment for 10 to 15 years." The program initially pays for 87.5% of the costs, but a completion bonus and other payments means that almost 100% of the total costs are not paid by the property owner.

The plastic tubes are technically "tree shelters" that vary in size between 3 and 5 inches in diameter. Their plastic composition is designed to degrade over time, providing the trees do not exceed the maximum diameter of the tube. If the seedlings do outgrow their plastic protection, the tubes are removed. Repeated experience has shown that without the shelters animals often destroy the seedlings before they can mature. Dan Hedderick points out, "the tubes also act like a nursery to the seedling."

Seedlings are selected based on what the Forest Service deems to be best for the site and also what the landowner wants. "Diversity makes more of a forest than a monoculture, so we primarily select hardwoods that are one to two years old but also some pines and shrubs are used. Our seedlings come from the John S. Ayton State Forest Tree Nursery located in Preston, Maryland. We provide the program but

Dawne Fox and Ronnie Clapp, area tree farmers, with "tubes".

private contractors do the planting work and site preparation." The growth of the seedlings is monitored by the state while the property owners are required to maintain them. According to Dan, "We were doing 100 acres a year in Allegany County but we have covered most of the available sites where land owners were interested."

The state of Maryland has been concerned with forest conservation before the current CREP program; in fact conservation efforts began with the creation of the Forestry Department in 1906. Some of those programs were designed to manage public lands while others encourage private landowners to take part in environmentally friendly practices through the use of incentives. This is important for comprehensive forest management because 90% of Maryland's woodlands are privately owned. Evidence that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forestry Service programs are successfully working to assist property owners today, while ensuring long term conservation benefits for tomorrow, can be counted by the number of residents who are taking part in them.

One of the most popular current state initiatives is the Forest Stewardship Program. According to Bernie Zlomek of the DNR Forest Service, "Stewardship is intended to assist private property land owners in managing their resources. When foresters prepare plans they must determine what the owner's objectives are. We don't want to tell the property owners what their objectives should be; we want to meet their objectives. Some owners want to grow trees; others are interested in improving the habitat for wildlife, or to improve water quality."

Ronnie Clapp, a Flintstone, Maryland resident who owns 111 acres, stated, "I got interested in the programs about 15 years ago through a neighbor. My main concerns were for the timber and the wildlife on my property. So, I became part of the Stewardship Program in 1994. The state took aerial photographs and then developed a plan in 2000. The plan was developed from an inventory of the forest and natural resources on the property. Basically, the Stewardship program creates incentives to keep the forest area from being commercially developed. I give the Forestry service a lot of credit; they are great guys to work with."

Ronnie's friend, Dawne Fox, also took part in FLEP, Forest Land Enhancement Program, a state program developed strictly for woodlands that consist of more than five acres of property. Unlike the Stewardship program that Ronnie took part in that used private funding to plant trees, state funds were used to subsidize under FLEP, so flexibility is trademark of the Maryland's incentive programs.

Henry and Nancy Maier, who live on 100 acres of property near Oldtown, Maryland, have also been working with the state, first with Henry's mother in a 15 year program and now in both the Stewardship and FLEP programs. "You apply and the state customizes a comprehensive management program. Complying with the written plan means that you receive substantial tax incentives." Henry and Nancy's forestry practices extend beyond state initiatives because they offer demonstrations and programs throughout the year including horse logging, food plots for wildlife, timber stand improvements, and practical surveying exercises for Allegany College of Maryland

Henry and Nancy Maier, at their tree farm, pose with Percherons, Bob and Barney. Along with other awards, Henry has recently been chosen as the Conservation Farmer of the Year.

forestry students. According to Dan Hedderick of the state of Maryland Forestry Service, Henry and Nancy Maier were designated Maryland State Tree Farmers of the Year in 2004, an award "we fully supported because of all the activities that Henry and Nancy have taken part in. The programs were great educational tools for students and neighbors."

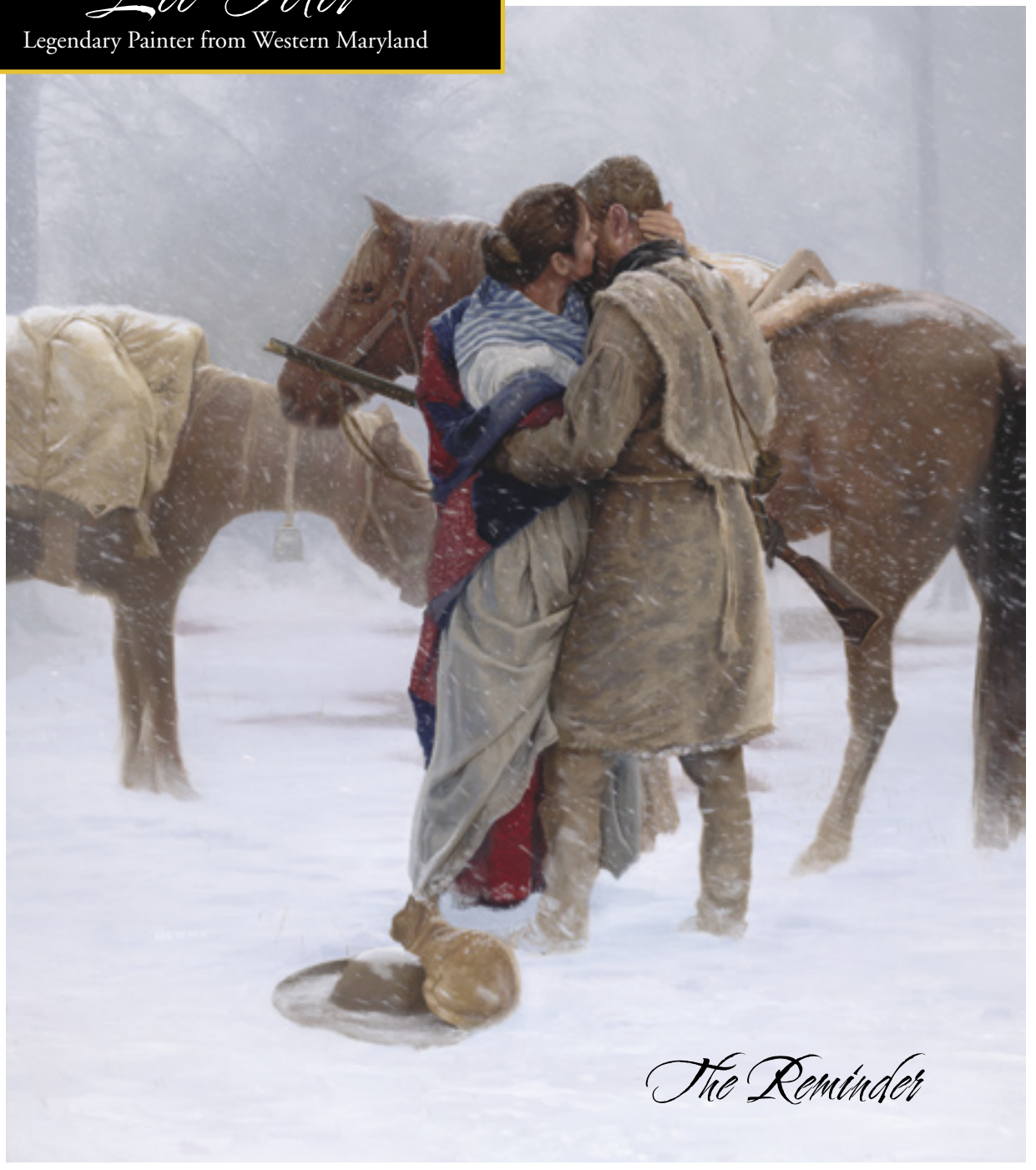
Bernie Zlomek notes, "There are hundreds of Allegany County landowners in the Stewardship program because of the incentives. Filing and implementing a plan is a tremendous tax savings. If a forest owner does not have a plan prepared by a licensed forester, their land is assessed at residential values. If a landowner has a management plan prepared by a licensed, professional forester and the recommendations are followed, their assessed value falls significantly. It's a win-win situation."

Another ongoing state program is provided by the John S. Ayton State Forest Tree Nursery. The DNR Forest Service makes tree seedlings available for spring delivery through the state nursery. The seedlings are sold to customers on a first come, first served basis. Some of the species available are oak, pine, dogwood, green ash, persimmon and shrubs. Deciduous trees are sold in bundles of 100 and conifers in bundles of 50. All seedlings must be planted in Maryland for conservation purposes including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, buffer and soil protection. Trees purchased from the state nursery are not to be used for landscaping or ornamentation.

A host of state of Maryland conservation and management plans may be viewed by visiting the DNR website at **www.dnr.state.md.us**.

Lee Teter

Legendary Painter from Western Maryland



Notes by Lee Teter

"The famous mountain men of the West all came from the East. Before they had completely adapted to the West their world looked like the one in this painting. There are accounts of trappers exploring the Rocky Mountains before the rendezvous era. As time passed and experience altered their methods of survival they looked different and thought different. Their journeys were business ventures, or at least that was the excuse they often gave themselves. Goodbyes were intense because chances of a safe return were not good. And greetings after a long absence were sometimes awkward; much could happen during the years apart. This painting could represent a greeting or a goodbye and I leave that to the viewer."

More of Lee Teter's work and a list of dealers may be viewed on his web site at **www.leeteter.com**, or locally in Western Maryland at The Art Gallery, 1059 National Highway LaVale, Maryland, 301-729-8989.

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Logging With Horse and Oxen

Western Maryland, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania have been home to large scale timbering operations since the late 1800s. Early loggers labored with hand equipment, teams of horses, oxen, and mules to cut the trees and remove them from the forest, a far cry from the mechanized equipment many people associate with the timbering industry today. Yet, the traditional ways have not yet passed into history; in fact, they may be enjoying a renaissance as evidenced in Flintstone, Maryland, where two friends find time to enjoy their outdoor hobby of horse logging.

Henry Maier of Oldtown, Maryland, and Leo Eby of Bean's Cove, Pennsylvania, take quiet pride in working their teams of horses and oxen in an environmentally friendly process. Large scale timbering operations typically require mechanical logging to be cost effective. But as Leo explains, "Years ago there were massive wooded areas, but today the boundaries we see are smaller, so it's not always practical to bring in heavy equipment. That is when horse logging may become cost effective. I view it as a practical solution to timbering a small, wooded area or for other special situations. Horse logging is also for people who have a different perspective, those who view the forest as 'God's Garden,' (a term the Department of Natural Resources officer, John Mash, used for the forest). But for me, it's mostly a hobby." Henry agrees that horse logging is "environmentally friendly. Heavy machines generally need large areas to turn around, and their weight is dangerous to roots of other trees. Horses don't tear up the ground or the skid paths nearly as much as power equipment would. We can also preserve other trees in the woods because horses are agile and able to make sharp turns without disturbing other vegetation. From my perspective, horse logging is mostly for fun and exercise for the horses."

Previous Page: Henry Maier (left) with Bob and Barney and Leo Eby (right) with oxen Lion and Tiger, after the tree was felled.

Right: The tree was cut into eight foot lengths and then split in place into quarters, before being "skidded" by horse and oxen. Leo Eby (right) is hand-splitting the long log.

Below: Henry and the horses, Bob and Barney, pull a "quarter" apart after splitting. The horses then drag the quartered logs to an area where they could be placed on trucks (photo above).

The use of draft animals to skid logs is re-gaining notoriety not just in Western Maryland, but across the United States as well. Proponents of horse logging point to economic and environmental benefits, including cost of an animal (about $3,000), weight of a horse, (about 2,000 pounds), and total start up costs ($5,000 to $10,000 versus $50,000 to $100,000 for power logging), as reasons to consider the traditional horse logging method of removing trees from the forest.

Where horse teams cannot compete, however, is when large scale clear cutting operations are required because the animals are too slow. According to Dan Hedderick, Forester for the state of Maryland, "We have seen a growing demand for horse logging. People like the traditional ways of logging because there is less disturbance of the forest, especially when pulling out an individual log. Horse logging can be better for selective cutting of both saw logs and veneer logs."

Leo and Henry put their equestrian skills to the test on April 1, 2006, when a 175 year old, 100-foot White Oak tree crashed to the ground on Henry and Nancy Maier's property in Oldtown, Maryland, an event witnessed by a group of residents who were eager to experience a glimpse into the past. However, the stars for the day were not Leo and Henry, but Bob, Barney, Prince, Baron, Tiger, and Lion, the draft horses and oxen that provided the power to extract the fallen tree from the forest. "The horses are amazing in the woods, and they really like to work," commented Henry. Leo directed a team of Percheron draft horses, named Bob and Barney, while his friend Henry worked Prince and Baron, the Belgian draft horses.

Bob and Barney eagerly responded to the teamsters commands. Whips or rods are never used or necessary for this work because the horses are eager and quick to respond to verbal commands. For the horses, this event became a labor of love as the fallen tree was "limbed, parted, quartered," hitched to the team and skidded out of the forest. Henry notes, "The horses are willing to work hard all day long; they really seem to look forward to the next hitch of logs." Leo supplemented the pulling with his team of Chianina Oxen, named Tiger and Lion. Both the horses and oxen can readily pull more than their own weights

(about 1,900 pounds) depending on grade, weather conditions, and distances.

Neither team received formal training in logging. According to Leo, "I just began working them and making them familiar with the wooded environment. An important point in the learning process is to team an experienced

horse with an inexperienced one. The older horse teaches the younger one." Henry noted that during the heyday of traditional logging when horses were commonly used, they could skid logs a half mile to a landing without a teamster behind them, drop their load, and then return to the felling site without verbal commands.

Bob and Barney demonstrate great power as they lean into their harnesses, pulling a section of log. The horses are eager and willing to work and seem to look forward to pulling the logs.

Leo has enjoyed horse logging since 2000, but it has been a dream since elementary school days after reading Singing Wheels (a story about the adventures of a family heading West) and other books about early American life. “After reading those books, I became interested in working animals.” Henry has enjoyed horse logging since his acquaintance with Leo following retirement several years ago. The location of his farm, a deep respect for the environment, and affection for his draft animals make logging an ideal hobby. Henry and Leo’s pastime has also shown that human needs for forest products can be met while nurturing the rural environment.

Top photo: Henry drives Bob and Barney as they pull a full log from the area.

Above: N.T. Smith poses with the stump to show the size of the white oak tree.

Right: Tiger and Lion, young oxen, look on as the horses do the pulling. The oxen are still being trained, but will eventually pull their load as well.

Above: Gentle giants, Baron and Prince shown here with Clare Maier riding Baron. Clare (owner) often rides Baron and at 18.2 hands, that's riding tall. Baron and Prince are Belgian Draft horses.

Below: Henry and Leo demonstrate the way it used to be done with the crosscut saw. A lot of skill and back pain go into using a saw of this type but a good practiced team can rip through a log like this in no time. This big tree was cut down with chain saws, not a crosscut saw.

Left: Bob and Barney, a pair of Percherons owned by Leo Eby, stand ready to pull a large log. Once the command is given these two put everything into it (see cover shot taken right after this photo). They are amazingly strong and love to pull.

Above right: Prince and Baron head home (dragging Henry along) after an evening of work.

Mountain Discoveries is printed on NewPage papers.

Sawmills - An Important Part of the Timber Industry

Eby's Sawmill

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Leo Eby's Sawmill was established in 1988 along Bean's Cove road in Clearville, Pennsylvania, a small Bedford County community just a stone's throw from the Allegany County Maryland line. The landscape is a patchwork of family owned farms that blend beautifully with the forest that ranges in all directions. The Eby family has resided in the close knit community for decades as have many of their neighbors, so the business blends community spirit with entrepreneurship.

Leo Eby

In a fundamental way, Leo's business is not far removed from the century and a half trade that sawyers practiced when the region was first opened to harvesting. Yet, in other ways, Leo's is different. Computerized scales, bar codes, hand held computers, and other electronic systems that are essential in today's lumber market, separate his edition of the trade from its predecessors. One consistency in the business over the decades has been the forest which provides the resources that make mills a virtual beehive of activity as the process of delivering, grading, and sawing lumber keeps employees busy and customers satisfied.

Leo Eby, proprietor, states, "Our business primarily consists of purchasing hardwood logs from cutters and then processing them into lumber products. We keep about 95% of the logs at the mill to process into lumber, and the other 5% we sell as veneer. Our mill only deals in 'green' lumber; the wood goes from here to other lumber facilities that dry and mill it."

Most of the logs arriving at Bean's Cove have been harvested within a 100-mile radius. Unlike other mills, Leo's does not employ cutting crews or contract for their services on a routine basis. "We are primarily a 'gate' sawmill, one of the few in the area. That means our timber resources are dropped off at our mill yard gate. It is strictly an open market; we have no contracts with vendors." This arrangement satisfies the market as all local species of trees arrive daily.

When vendors arrive at the log gate, Leo is responsible for organizing, grading, and establishing prices for the logs, a task that requires experience and sharp eyesight. The logs are arranged in rows in a log yard near the mill. Evaluation means that Leo is considering the quality of wood, especially those logs referred to as veneer. Such top quality logs can easily bring double the market value of lower graded timber. Leo continues, "There is no perfect log, and my eyes are trained to look for problems. If I make a mistake, it becomes my problem. So, I

Eight year old Weylon Miller sits next to a very large Sapele log shipped from Africa to Leo's sawmill, for a customer. Leo is cutting it into board footage for the client.

look for issues and use a three strike grading rule. If there is a potential problem with a log, a small issue, I may overlook it. I might even see another small problem and overlook it. But if I see a third problem on the same log, it is ruled out as veneer quality."

The imperfections, or "issues," Leo looks for are small pine knots, about one quarter of an inch in diameter. These were caused when a small branch died during the early life of the tree, and the surface gradually covered over the mark. Other typical problems are splits, mineral deposits that cause dark olive green streaks, a swoop or crooked bend in the log, a shake or unsoundness of grain, a deterioration process called 'spalding,' and off-center hearts or centers of the log. Grading must be consistent because "my bosses are my customers, and they depend on consistent products for their veneer furniture products." Expenses are also a consideration. "I just bought four walnut logs for $9,000, so I have to be careful in grading."

Leo's evaluation continues until all logs have been examined in order to establish value for a vendor's logs. Additional keys to the grading process include the "bark pattern; it tells you everything about the tree." I'm also looking for 'cat faces.' These are small circular imperfections that may indicate greater problems within the log.

Once the logs are graded, they are moved to the sawmill where sawyers are responsible for processing the logs into customer products. Boards, oak timbers, and planks all get closely monitored at the band saw. "We use band saws because we get more yields from them. The thickness of the blade can effect the lumber yields. A band saw cuts faster, too. We probably pick up 3-10 percentage points in yield with a band saw over a circular saw, and that is a lot because we process 8-10 million board feet of saw logs and veneer logs each year."

Eby's lumber is shipped to a variety of local and distant customers. "One of our main markets for veneer logs is in North Carolina." Occasionally lumber is also shipped to Clear Spring, Maryland, where it is dried for customers.

continued on page 42

Leo stands in front of a wall of Oak logs ready for the mill.

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Kiln Drying - Another Step in the Timber Industry

Carl Eby's Kiln

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Clear Spring, Maryland's gently rolling farmlands typically host fields of corn during the summer months. Red brick farm houses, barns, nursery's, and small church buildings complement the pasturelands and fields of corn, wheat, and soybeans that stretch along Maryland Route 68 as far as one can see. A small black mailbox lettered "Carl's Kiln" is not a prominent marker along Route 68, but it is one that points the way to another important business associated with Western Maryland's timber industry.

When driving up Carl's lane, one first notices stacks of neatly arranged hardwood lumber forming a picturesque border to the surrounding cornfields. Near the stacked lumber that waits in various stages of the drying process stands a large metal building enclosing a wood-fired kiln. A soft humming sound, the result of fans creating an air flow through the kiln, is the only noticeable noise on the site. Proprietor, Carl Eby, offers friendly greetings to the customers as they arrive on the parking lot.

Carl explains his association with the lumber industry began with employment in a nearby planing mill that also offered kiln services. "The owner became so busy at the millwork that he couldn't keep up with the kiln. I asked the owner if he believed a kiln business would be successful, and he said, 'Yes.' So, I started my business in 2001. I also wanted a business that would involve the family and the kiln would meet that expectation."

Carl explains the kiln's primary purpose is to remove moisture from the freshly cut timber in a controlled manner so that it will maintain its intended form. According to Carl, "There are three main factors to control in a kiln operation: air flow, temperature, and humidity. The last two are the ones I need to monitor in the drying process."

Following the initial outdoor drying process that takes two to three months, the wood is moved inside the kiln. Maximum capacity of the kiln is 30,000 board feet. The kiln drying process begins when warm air, fueled by a wood burning furnace, is forced through the stack of lumber in the kiln. To closely monitor the drying process, sample boards are cut and weighed on a small scale outside the kiln door. "I weigh the sample boards and calculate the moisture in them once each day because I am always looking for a given moisture loss. If I'm not getting that loss, kiln time is being wasted. If the drying process is too fast, the boards will crack, twist, and warp. Typically, I start the kiln cycle at 100 degrees and then move it up to 170 degrees at the end. We also keep a close eye on humidity. Three box vents on each end of the kiln serves to pull fresh air in one side while exhausting it at the other end, thereby regulating the humidity mixture. A nearby controller/recorder instrument, equipped with settings for temperature and humidity, allows for adjustments to be made by the operator. "We can dry about 50,000 board feet each month and we keep about 200,000 board feet on hand in our yard."

Carl's customers live within a 100-mile radius of Clear Spring and he knows each one personally. "We custom dry lumber for five regular customers, and they all live nearby." Religious faith, family, and customers are key ingredients to Carl's life and business. "We are in our work for the benefit and blessing of others."

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Furniture Making - Another Use of the Timber Industry

Evergreen Furniture Shop

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Located two miles north of Flintstone, Maryland, off Flintstone Creek Road, is Evergreen Furniture Shop and the home of Gideon Petre, proprietor. The family owned business began in 1998, when Gideon searched for an appropriate location to build a business. "I was looking for a rural setting; that was more important to me than an existing commercial shop." Gideon found what he was looking for in the picturesque Pennsylvania valley, complete with meadows and farm houses. A small stream and garden border the shop to the east while children may be seen enjoying outdoor activities on nearby lawns surrounding the facility.

Evergreen Furniture's retail showroom displays a variety of items for customers to enjoy. The workshop, located behind the showroom, is complete with saws, drills, clamps and other tools typically used by craftsmen. "We use both modern and traditional methods to be efficient and cost effective," explains Gideon. A self described "wood nut," Gideon states, "If it's wood, I like it. But we only stock hardwoods and good grades of plywood. I have an aversion to particle board." The most popular woods for use at Evergreen are "Traditional Appalachian hardwoods, that is where my bread and butter is—oak, cherry, maple. I use a lot of wood from Flintstone Lumber. They buy it from Leo Eby," thereby keeping the Western Maryland forestry process in motion.

The Appalachian hardwoods are crafted into a variety of custom made units including desks, book cases, wall units, curios, kitchen cabinets, and bedroom furniture. The kind of wood, the style of the piece, and the color of the finish are determined by customers. Gideon notes that styles have changed since he began working in the valley. "When I first got into the business, country, heavy oak, and lion's claws were popular. The trend today is towards Shaker-type pieces. Mission is also currently popular."

Gideon is assisted by two workers. "We stay small so we don't lose the personal touch. I have no desire to be a big corporation." In further defining his craft and his philosophy of life, Gideon stated, "My work is a practical outreach of my faith. I craft items for individual customers based on integrity, honesty and simplicity of life." Those qualities have paid dividends as business has grown to the point that paid advertising is unnecessary and a typical backlog of orders ranges from six to nine months.

Gideon Petre with a bed headboard he is crafting. Evergreen Furniture Shop builds entire bedroom suites and much more.

Eby's Sawmill *continued from pg. 37*

Eby's Sawmill is a wholesale operation, dealing primarily in bulk shipments. A family owned retail facility is located off I-68, along Ali Ghan Road, where outdoor products are sold directly to consumers. Wood mulch is one of the best selling items at the store. "Most of our mulch is hardwood and bark. We also sell a strictly bark mulch." Decorative gravels, mushroom soil, top soil, retaining wall blocks, dyed mulch products, and pavers are also offered.

What arrives at Eby's also leaves Eby's in one form or another. "We sell everything we buy. There is a market for everything we have. Even saw dust is sold as bedding for dairy cattle, horses, and chickens."

Eby's business has grown because of increasing demand for superior hardwoods, because of quality hardwood vendors who supply the forest products, and because of Leo's reputation as a reliable supplier. Leo's admonition that customers are his boss has served him well.

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Paper - Another End Use From the Timber Industry

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Western Maryland's forest resources are used by a variety of consumers and manufacturers throughout the United States. One business enjoying a long association with the regional timber industry is paper manufacturing, whose facilities are located throughout the East Coast. The paper mills have provided employment to thousands of workers and paper products to customers around the world.

Early editions of the mills were not as sensitive to environmental issues; however, those conditions have changed. In recent decades, professional foresters and the paper industry have developed a successful working relationship that seeks to provide the necessary wood fiber for the industry, while also establishing stewardship programs that will protect the environment and sustain renewable resources for the future.

One of the paper mills in the East Coast region is situated along the banks of the Potomac River in Luke, Maryland. The NewPage Luke mill operation has 1,100 employees and extends into three counties and two states—Allegany and Garrett counties, Maryland, and Mineral County, West Virginia.

The papermaking process is one that begins with forest resources and ends with a variety of manufactured products. From the planting of trees or natural regeneration of hardwood forests to the shipping of finished goods, each step in the process requires careful planning.

The forest nurtures the wood necessary for the production of paper. Private landowners and independent loggers and sawmills provide most of the harvested wood that arrives daily at the NewPage mill in Luke, Maryland. Charlie Hartman, Wood Operations Superintendent at NewPage, notes that his company is not the prime harvester of forest products because it is the lesser quality material that creates the pulpwood supply for papermaking. Paper companies do not typically purchase prime grade timber because that is sold by landowners to large saw mills where higher value can be realized. About one-third of the wood fiber arriving at the paper mill is composed of sawmill chip residual materials, another third from tree limbs, tops, and lower graded hardwoods, and the remainder from forest thinning operations.

All pulpwood arriving at the mill must first be processed to remove bark. This is accomplished by placing the wood in large tumblers that resemble giant clothes dryers. As the wood turns in the tumblers, friction removes the outer bark and it falls onto a conveyor belt for removal and sale to another industry. The cleaned pulpwood slides from the tumbler onto a conveyer belt that transports them to a chipper wheel. Uniform size wood chips, about the size of fifty-cent pieces, are formed in the chipping process. Not all chips are produced at the plant; some arrive by truck already cut

to size at sawmills throughout the region. Approximately 70% of the chips are derived from hardwoods because they provide smoothness to the paper, while about 30% come from softwoods, such as pine, that provide sheet strength. This mix may vary depending on the type of paper produced.

After chips are prepared, the papermaking process moves indoors. The wood chips are mixed with chemicals and fed into pressure cookers to soften the lignin material that binds the fibers together. Those fibers are sent through several stages of bleaching, washing, screening, and cleaning to reach a desired level of brightness. Pigments, dyes, sizing, and resins are added to the fibers in a "headbox," a large rectangular container above the paper machine. The headbox mixture is more than 90% water and resembles white slurry as it flows evenly onto the paper machine immediately below. A moving screen initially supports the slurry allowing much of the water to be drawn into collection tanks below.

As the paper slurry continues forward on the paper machine, it passes through heavy rollers that remove additional moisture and through steam-heated cylinders that further speed the drying process. Each dryer steam heats to 180 degrees, so the paper will eventually dry on contact before reaching the end of the process. Depending on customers' requirements, pigmented coatings are applied by a coater. The paper exits the machine and is rolled onto large cylinders that are assigned bar codes and protective coverings. All finished products are finally placed into a storage area until transportation arrangements to customers are finalized.

Some paper mills only produce coated paper, a broad term including printing and cover paper, as distinguished from wrapping papers, newsprint, and non-coated products. Those coated paper products can be found in some of the best known books, journals, canned good labels, and magazines, like *Mountain Discoveries*.

The editors of *Mountain Discoveries* have established a positive working relationship with the Luke operation of NewPage, a nationally recognized producer of coated papers. The magazine is printed on Sterling® paper manufactured at the Luke facility, thereby making NewPage a part of *Mountain Discoveries'* success. Lance Bell and Kathie Smith, publishers of *Mountain Discoveries*, appreciate the quality of the paper produced at NewPage and the dedication of the employees who work there, the forest landowners who properly manage their standing timber, and the producers that supply the wood fiber to the mill.

Western Maryland's timber industry continues to thrive as thousands of workers are employed to plant, manage, and harvest the trees for consumer products made available throughout the world. Proper management of forest resources has shown that the needs of industry can be met in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

WOOD CHIPS
The logs, which come from properly managed forests, are cut into inch-sized pieces before being sent to the Pulp Mill for further processing. Additional wood chips are also purchased from area sawmills.

UNBLEACHED PULP
Pulp is prepared by cooking the wood chips in a large pressure vessel known as a digester. Water and chemicals are used during the cooking process, which takes approximately two hours.

BLEACHED PULP
After the cooking process, the brown pulp passes through a multi-stage bleaching process to achieve the whiteness and brightness levels required for various products.

McDonald's® new Asian Salad with warm, orange-glazed chicken, sweet Mandarin oranges, crisp snow peas, tender edamame, topped with Newman's Own® Low-Fat Sesame Ginger dressing, is absolutely fit for a queen. It's the latest addition to my other favorite Premium Salads.

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New Market *continued from pg. 6*

and win the battle by themselves, they gave it an unique aspect. Never before, nor since, has an entire student body been called from its classrooms into pitched battle. The cadets acquitted themselves well in combat, and VMI has preserved their legacy as an example to successive generations of cadets. Each May 15, in a ceremony dating to 1866, the ten young soldiers of the Institute who lost their lives in the battle are commemorated in a ceremonial roll call. It takes place before the graves of six of the cadets, marked by the statue, *Virginia Mourning Her Dead*, created by sculptor Moses Ezekiel, himself a New Market cadet.

Years after the Battle of New Market, Captain Franklin Town, a Union veteran of the conflict, wrote a letter to a VMI alumnus that described the cadet's charge in terms that touched on the timeless qualities of their accomplishment:

As a military spectacle it was most beautiful, and as a deed of war it was most grand. When such young men fall in a cause in which they believe, whether it is intrinsically right or wrong, one may realize the sadness of cutting off a life so full of promise, yet all—those who approved and those who opposed the cause they died for—will accord them the tribute of sincere respect and admiration. I don't believe the history of war contains the record of a deed more chivalrous, more daring, or more honorable, than the charge of these boys to a victory which veterans might well boast.

For VMI, the New Market legacy is more than the record of a particular Civil War battle. Rather, it is a lesson in duty, bravery, and commitment. Like the young men of 1864 who were called upon to make the supreme sacrifice, successive generations of VMI cadets have faced their own "New Markets," whether on battlefields around the world, or in other walks of life. It is a proud heritage that continues to inspire.

Ginseng

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Ginseng, or "sang" as it is commonly called in Garrett County, has been prized as a valuable herb for centuries. Derived from the Chinese term "jen-shen" meaning "shaped like a man" or "man root," the plant represents different qualities to those who seek it. The Chinese believed it to be a cure-all for the entire body while American Indians also valued its curative powers. Appalachians gathered the precious roots, called tassels, for medicinal purposes and as a cash crop to supplement family incomes. The number of ginseng products is increasing as contemporary consumers continue to be fascinated with the benefits associated with the plant.


The Ginseng plant

Ginseng is a perennial plant that naturally grows to be more than one-foot tall and blooms in the summer. By fall, it ripens with red berries, each containing two seeds. A maturity time of six to eight years is required to reach a point when the roots, the most desirable part of the plant, may be harvested. And as domestic and foreign demand for ginseng increases to the present day, so do the ways in which it can be grown and harvested.

Americans quickly learned the monetary value of harvesting wild ginseng as an export commodity. From 1821-1899, the annual exportation of the wild root was 381,000 pounds, and the business continued to thrive throughout the 20th Century. The wild plant may typically be located in cool, shady, mountainous hardwood forests like those of Garrett County and along the Appalachian Mountain Range. Wild ginseng refers to those plants found in the mountains that contain superior amounts of ginsenoside, a newly identified active ingredient of ginseng. The wild variety is harvested wherever it is found to be growing, and its roots can be distinguished from their domestic counterparts because of shape and size. The botanical name of both wild and domestic plants is Panax Quinquefolius. Panax is derived from the Greek word "panakos" meaning "cure-all." Due to the added value placed on wild ginseng, over harvesting has occurred making it relatively rare and increasingly endangered. According to a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services report, "Over harvest threatens wild populations of this species and the livelihoods of those citizens who depend on the plant as a source of income." Consequently, today only 3.5% of ginseng exports involve wild harvest roots. Concerns about ginseng's survival caused states to restrict the collecting of the roots to those of at least five years of age. A myriad of other state regulations specify harvest dates and the minimum numbers of prongs that must be on the roots. The state of Maryland's harvest season typically stretches from a date in August to December, requires a three prong root minimum, and a licensing process. Nearby West Virginia's season ranges from August 15 to November 30 and specifies no minimum prong number.

Larry Harding, along with the young deer that has adopted his family, is surrounded by growing "Sang". These ginseng plants show green berries – the berries will turn bright red in the Fall, ready for harvest.

The location of ginseng patches is a closely held secret, and they are guarded by gatherers. Increased incidents of poaching on federal lands have been received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Harvest of native plants is prohibited within National Parks, yet the poaching of ginseng and other medicinal herbs "continues to rise." Poaching is not restricted to government lands "but is also affecting private land owners."

An alternative to wild ginseng is provided when seed stock from those plants is carefully distributed in a shaded forest. This type of ginseng, referred to as "Woods Grown" or "Wild Simulated," must still compete with trees and other plants for nutrients because it is located in a natural environment without artificial fertilizers. Woods Grown roots take on the characteristics of wild ginseng with long, crooked tassels and verifiable growth rings. Another key ingredient in the growing of wild simulated ginseng is the natural canopy of the hardwood forest that provides for proper shading.

A third method of growing ginseng, termed "cultivated," enables a faster harvest, usually within three or four years after planting the seeds. Since a highly controlled environment is provided, the roots do not have to strenuously compete for survival, and the tassels take on a straight and smooth shape. Many current ginseng products contain cultivated plants because they are more economical to purchase. The cultivated varieties are commonly grown in Wisconsin and Canada, far from their native habitats.

George Brady, a long time Kitzmiller, Maryland, resident grew into the sang quest as a family activity. "I had an uncle who ginsenged a lot, and I have a brother who is fantastic at finding it." A typical inquiry from novices about the ginseng hunt is where it can be found. According to George Brady, some people seem to locate the plants easier than others because they learn of certain weeds that tend to grow near the desirable plants. "I was never really great at finding it," admitted Mr. Brady, who decided to employ more scientific methods including a topographical

map for elevation marks. "You might go for a whole week and never find any. And then, you might find a big patch quickly. Once, I found a whole stack full in just a little bit of time. It's like hunting for that pot of gold. You realize that it's always over the next ridge. I climbed more than one steep gully thinking there was a big patch of ginseng on the other side." George Brady also learned, "There is a big difference in ginseng. Domesticated is not worth nearly as much money. Each year when it comes up, there is a little curl on the root. And you can tell how old it is by how many curls the root has on it. When you see a plant with only two or three curls, it's been cultivated and fertilized. People don't pay near the money for it that way."

Another local ginseng enthusiast is a Cresaptown, Maryland, resident Al Cunningham. "My dad dug ginseng; his dad dug ginseng, and it goes even further back in our family. I have been digging it in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia for more than 40 years." Al points out certain tips in locating the scarce plant. "Ginseng is always found on the morning side of the hill, and it is always in a place that provides 75% shade during the day."

Al not only hunts ginseng as a hobby, but he also recommends it for medicinal purposes. "I take it every morning with juice. There is very little rheumatoid arthritis in Asian countries where ginseng is used. And I could tell you stories about people here who have benefited from it."

Unfortunately, "Ginseng is about wiped out. Maybe once every 10 years you will find a virgin patch. I once found a patch near Oakland, Maryland, in a valley. I collected one third of the seeds and that amounted to about 3,000 of them. They covered a pool table. Then I replanted them. The most I ever heard about being found at one time is when my father worked in a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in Pennsylvania. He found a patch that filled a 100 pound flour sack."

J. Marshall Porter, local historian, reflected in a memoir, *A Tree of Memories*, that his father taught him to identify wild ginseng when he was a small boy growing up in the Cresaptown area of Allegany County, following World War I. "It was getting scarce then. Father told me about the early diggers who had dug all summer…The greed of a few men

Top photo: Al Cunningham holds a dried Ginseng root.

Bottom photo: Al shows a framed, dried Ginseng plant – the largest he has ever found. On the ground is a bag of dried "Sang".

has caused many to lose good things that could have lasted for all." Today's scarcity of wild ginseng is directly related to over harvesting by gatherers of the past.

Fortunately for ginseng lovers, Garrett County resident Kenneth Harding collected the seeds of native wild plants more than 45 years ago before they became too scarce. Those seeds were used to establish Harding's Ginseng Farm, located in the Appalachian Mountains of Western Maryland near the small town of Friendsville (population 550). The climate, terrain, and elevation of its location enabled the Hardings to "grow our crop in the woods in a natural way, under the canopy of the hardwood forest." Only plants with a minimum of eight years growth are harvested, and many are more than ten years of age. According to Larry Harding, current owner, "Ours is a slow growing root that is comparable to wild ginseng in potency and quality. We start it from wild seed and root stock. The roots look a lot like wild ginseng and are of very high quality."

Not just a licensed state of Maryland ginseng grower and dealer, Larry is a believer in its medicinal qualities. "Ginseng has medicinal values that we don't really know about yet. It is a cure-all." Larry reported that six wild ginseng roots were purchased at an auction in Asia for about $120,000. "Why would Orientals be willing to pay so much money for ginseng if it didn't have medical value?" Larry also believes that ginseng can also build up your body's immune system.

Spring Ginseng – pods are just starting and will turn from green to bright red in the Fall.

Harding's Ginseng Farm is the largest in the state of Maryland and perhaps the largest in the United States. Currently, 60 acres of ginseng grows on the mountainsides near Larry's residence along Maryland Route 46. "We harvest 500 to 2,000 pounds, dry weight, per year. It just depends on how well it does. Three to five acres per year is typical for our harvest."

Larry Harding's biggest customers are located overseas. "We ship it directly to Asia. The ginseng leaves Friendsville and is shipped to Thurgood Marshall, Baltimore-Washington Airport in Baltimore, where it is inspected, weighed, and certified. But we get orders from all over the country and we do sell ginseng locally to regular customers who buy capsules, powder, and roots. I also buy wild ginseng from local hunters."

Man-shaped ginseng roots are believed to have superior healing powers over less distinctively shaped roots, and therefore command premium prices. A single man-shaped root could sell for hundreds of dollars as compared to cultivated roots that sell for $20 to $30 per pound.

While many of the healing properties associated with ginseng in the past were typically communicated by word of mouth, researchers have taken notice of the herb. One recent study reported in the American Journal of Epidemiology suggested that 1,455 breast cancer patients between the years 1996-1998, tended to have a higher survival rate if they used ginseng regularly before the diagnosis. Individuals advocating alternative treatments for illnesses report that ginseng may be helpful in treating sugar diabetes and in preventing other maladies.

The use of ginseng in treating diabetes caught the attention of Chicago researchers who studied the effects of ginseng berries on mice suffering from high levels of blood sugar. Dr. Chun-Su Yang, a researcher at the University of Chicago's Tang Center for Herbal Medicine, reported encouraging results in the study because daily injections of ginseng berry extract restored normal blood sugar in the mice, an effect attributed to ginsenoside Re. Further studies on humans are expected soon.

The herb has also sparked interest among academics at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland. According to FSU Folklorist, Kara Rogers Thomas, "Ginseng has played an important role in the Appalachian Economy allowing regional residents to supplement their incomes by harvesting the wild plant and selling it to area dealers to market. Interestingly, unlike most wild plants and herbs harvested in the Eastern Mountains, ginseng was rarely used by regional residents. Historically, its value in Appalachia was purely monetary. Unfortunately, in many cases, that motive led to poor harvesting practices resulting in the loss of a significant number of ginseng plants. Today, botanists and social scientists are working together to educate local harvesters on the best practices of ginseng growth and sustainability. Those goals are at the core of FSU's new interdisciplinary Ethnobotany Program which melds together research in botany, chemistry, geography and the social sciences."

Fall Ginseng plant with ripe red berries.

For residents and visitors who desire to view ginseng plants and learn more about them, a stop at Harding's Farm near Friendsville is in order. Harding's Ginseng Farm offers a variety of products for sale at the Friendsville location or by mail order including, ginseng wine, ginseng powder, shirts, apparel, health and beauty products, and ginseng roots. Larry also assists customers in growing their own ginseng. "I developed a kit to trouble shoot. Customers email me photos showing their problem, and I try to help them. I know what to do with what I see."

While the ways ginseng continues to be hunted, cultivated, harvested and marketed may vary, the quest to acquire the plant remains a popular hobby with mountain residents. Ginseng enthusiasts continue to be inspired to find that illusive patch that is just over the next hill.

The opinions expressed about the medicinal qualities of ginseng reported in the preceding article do not necessarily reflect the views of Mountain Discoveries.

Shown above is a live Ginseng plant, dried Ginseng root, Ginseng wine, and wild Ginseng capsules. Ginseng soap is also available.

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Bringing Back a Grand Old Lady –

The Bedford Springs Resort

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

"The great spring is alive and well, just like Bedford Springs Resort." That exciting statement comes from Todd Gillespie, sales and marketing director for Benchmark Hospitality, the management company overseeing the landmark resort/hotel's restoration. The Bedford, Pennsylvania property has hosted guests ranging from honeymooners to United States presidents. And like the phoenix that rose from the ashes in ancient Egypt, Bedford Springs Resort is building on a storied past to become an even more successful destination site when it reopens during the summer of 2007.

Bedford Spring's reputation as a hospitality center has its origins in Native Americans who gathered around seven natural springs that provided curative powers and nourishment. By the time Europeans discovered the springs in the late Eighteenth Century, it was reported to be a meeting ground for Indian tribes who gathered peacefully to take the waters, temporarily ending feuds. According to Todd Gillespie, "The first permanent dwelling on the site was the Stone House built in 1805." The house was constructed near the Sweet Spring. Over the years additional buildings were added to the complex which acquired the name Bedford Springs Hotel. Facilities were established at Bedford Springs and expanded over the decades.

Bedford Springs grew to be a regional attraction in the Nineteenth Century as vacationers sometimes pitched tents in close proximity to the waters. Tents became less conspicuous as time passed and additional permanent facilities were added. Rail passenger service, offered by the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroads, meant that guests arrived from a variety of metropolitan centers, causing the hotel to increase its hospitality offerings.

As the resort's reputation grew, it began to attract noteworthy visitors including United States Presidents Harrison, Tyler, Polk, and Buchanan. The chief executive most closely associated with Bedford Springs is Pennsylvania native James Buchanan, who spent 40 summers at the hotel including the years of his presidency. Affairs of state were informally moved from Washington D.C. to Bedford Springs during the summers of 1857-1861 when the resort served as the summer White House. The United States Supreme Court justices also met there in an extremely rare informal session to discuss a run away slave case prior to the Civil War. Rooms are currently being designated to honor famous guests who lodged at Bedford Springs.

In more recent times the guest list at Bedford Springs was influenced by events surrounding World War II. Japanese diplomats were temporarily interred there from 1943-45. U.S. Government officials were aware of the prevailing anti-Japanese sentiment so they made it known that the diplomats were not permitted to golf, drink alcoholic beverages, or enjoy hotel food and other amenities. Government supplied food from Washington D.C. was their standard dining fare. Approximately 7,000 U.S. military personnel were also trained in radio communications at the facility during the war.

Following World War II the grand hotel era in America began a gradual decline. "Taking the waters" as a prescription for various medical maladies did not fit with the times or scientific evidence. Gone were the days when physicians would prescribe the "Bedford Cure," a three week health regimen at the hotel. The Sweet Spring near to the hotel was capped in 1955, thus metaphorically closing the golden era of Bedford Springs. Even Hygea, the Goddess of Health, whose likeness appeared as a statue on the front lawn to welcome guests, disappeared. The facility remained open but continued to decline until 1986 when the doors were closed for the final time. Fortunately, the hotel's structures remained intact, offering tourists and history buffs a glimpse of the glory days.

Bedford Springs architectural style is eclectic, reflecting a variety of influences between the years 1805-1905. The structures are arranged in a contiguous setting. Near the center is a Greek Revival style colonial building (1826-1842) complete with a brick façade, two story colonnade, and portico. North of the colonial building are four frame, log, and stone structures: the Evitt House, the Stone House, the Swiss Cottage, and the Anderson House. To the South are brick buildings including one accommodating the first indoor swimming pool, and new construction for a luxury spa.

Benchmark Hospitality understands and appreciates the hotel's historical significance. "This is a restoration, not a renovation," states Todd Gillespie. In keeping with the character of the hotel, all significant features that are deemed to be safe are receiving careful attention from craftsmen. The hotel will be returned to the way it looked in 1905.

Construction already underway provides a preview of the colonial building that will be the location of a new grand entrance, complete with portraits of important early visitors. To create a more serene setting for the entrance and a more efficient flow of vehicle traffic, the current highway passing in front of the hotel is being relocated to the rear of the complex.

The Evitt building will showcase a library featuring guest ledger books signed by famous visitors. A nearby Crystal Room will seat 130 dining guests in addition to offering two private dining rooms. Complete dining facilities will be centered in three tiers in the Stone Building. One tier, called Defibaugh's Tavern, will offer guests relaxing views of the gardens and Shobers Run Creek. Twelve Pennsylvania draft beers will be offered to connoisseurs, along with sandwiches and light fare.

The indoor swimming pool restoration includes polishing the original white tiles and refurbishing a balcony overlooking the water surface. Other more personal effects found throughout the hotel, like the etched markings on window glass, are also being kept. According to Mr. Gillespie, brides "tested" wedding diamonds by etching their signatures on the glass windows during their reception in the ballroom. And because Bedford Springs was a honeymoon

destination site, many of the windows were marked over the years as the tradition grew.

Not all plans required restoration, however, as construction of a new 30,000 square foot, world class spa and 93 guestrooms and suites is underway. A full range of treatments will be offered around the spa that will be fed by water from seven nearby springs. A fitness room, full service salon, and retail shops will round out the featured offerings.

Todd Gillespie explains that while the property is historically significant, it will not be based solely in the past. "Bedford Springs will be as high tech as any resort in the world, a totally wireless facility." Seventy percent of the guest rooms will offer king sized beds, and in the remaining rooms twin sized accommodations are planned. Rooms will also showcase an armoire, flat screen TV's, a business desk, Water Works water fixtures, and a sun filled deck complete with two rocking chairs. The renovation will result in a "world class, four star luxury hotel. Bedford Springs will become a major destination for both leisure and business travelers," said Mr. Gillespie. Pittsburgh, Washington, and Baltimore are within a two hour drive of Bedford, Pennsylvania, which is located along the Pennsylvania Turnpike. "Location is one of our greatest advantages."

A first class resort would not be possible without a similarly rated golf course. And like the Bedford Springs Hotel, the golf course has a rich history. First designed by the legendary golf architect Spencer Oldham in the mid 1890's, the course underwent two significant changes when it was converted to a nine hole by A.W. Tillengham course and later brought back to an 18 hole facility by golf architect Donald Ross. The last major course design occurred in 1923.

Over the years Shobers Run Creek, which runs directly through the course, suffered from sediment filling in the margins and waterways. According to Mr. Gillespie, construction is on schedule with the purpose of returning the course to the original 1923 Donald Ross design. Contractor for the project is Frontier Construction of Jones Mills, Pennsylvania, working with Force Design. "Force Design is the preeminent restorer of historical golf courses," states Mr. Gillespie.

The Bedford Springs Resort renaissance was initiated when Mark Langdale and Keith Evans, principal owners in the project, announced in 2005 that the resort would be reopened in 2007 at a cost of about $100 million. Mark Langdale is a friend of President George Bush and currently U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica. Benchmark Hospitality International is an independent hospitality management company based in The Woodlands, Texas. The company also operates resorts, conference centers, hotels and condotels both domestically and internationally. Construction is on schedule and a Memorial Day, 2007, grand opening is anticipated. On that day, the goddess Hygea will reclaim her position on the front lawn welcoming guests to the grand resort known as Bedford Springs.

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C. William Gilchrist Museum of the Arts

FIBERS FINEST

The C. William Gilchrist Museum of the Arts in Cumberberland, Maryland will host an exhibit by the Fiber Art Study Group of Washington, DC from September 10 through October 8. The show will be displayed at the Museum on 104 Washington Street as well as the Culinaire Café at the Gateway Center on Baltimore Street. The FASG is a member guild in the Creative Arts Council, CCC, which is a fifty year-old organization of ten fine craft guilds in the DC area representing work in glass, jewelry, pottery, enameling, goldsmith and polymer, as well as, aspects of fiber.

The show promises to be exciting and unusual. Fiber art is defined as anything made for the sake of creative expression from some sort of fiber. The members of the guild work in many mediums including art quilts, altered and art books, bead work, crochet, dolls, embellishments, felting, collage, knitting, silk painting, soft sculpture, surface design, wearables, weaving, and woven wire. Many are skilled in a variety of techniques and cannot be classified as only weavers, knitters, collagers or quilters. Their work combines to make a unique form.

The rich foundation of skills of traditional fiber work is the basis on which contemporary fiber art was built and this region is particularly strong in the traditional fiber skills — quilting, weaving, crocheting, embroidering, spinning. With this exhibit traditional artisans will be able to see innovative uses for familiar materials and hopefully gain artistic inspiration. The path from sustaining a tradition to exploring the possibilities of a medium can begin with one step of artistic inspiration according to Lauren Kingsland, member of FASG.

Kathleen Moran, Arts Administrator for the City of Rockville, Maryland, juried the artists who are exhibiting in this show. Some of these artists have exhibited all over the world and are in major corporate and private collections.

The opening reception will be held on September 10 from 1-4 at the Gilchrist Museum and the Culinaire Café. There will be refreshments and musical entertainment and some of the artists will be present to discuss their work. Thereafter the exhibit will be open from 1-4 Thursday through Sunday at both locations through October 8.

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