



Homestead Highlights

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2008

Jewelry with a History



Historic Chestnut Jewelry
by Lisa Hollingsworth

The Reynolds Homestead Museum Store is featuring a unique jewelry collection by Lisa Hollingsworth.

The pieces are fashioned from American chestnut wood salvaged from a damaged sill in the kitchen floor that had to be replaced in 2007. The wood dates back to at least 1855.

For nearly 200 years, Patrick County chestnut trees provided lumber valued for its hardness, durability and beauty, and it was used for homes and furniture throughout the United States.

Hollingsworth says of her collection for the Homestead: “My jewelry is a blend of natural and cultural history: gemstones and chestnut wood from southwest Virginia. I love combining these natural materials to create unique pieces.”

The gemstones used in the jewelry include kyanite, garnet, tourmaline and unakite.

Unakite is the official stone of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its characteristic peach and green color combination can also be seen in a huge outcrop along Highway 221 on Bent Mountain.

Garnet is the reddish-violet stone that is the January birthstone. Blue kyanite is formed in interesting blade-shaped crystals. The popular tourmaline is multicolored and is also used in electrical circuitry.

Anyone looking for unique gifts of local and regional significance should stop by the Homestead’s Museum Store to browse the jewelry, books, music and other items. For additional information contact Lisa Martin at martinlm@vt.edu or (276) 694-7181 x 22.

Happy New Year!

The staff at the Reynolds Homestead is excited about the programming scheduled for 2008. Mark your calendars for the many upcoming special events we have to offer.

If music is your passion, we have some wonderful offerings this year. The Jeanette Williams Band will return on March 15. The Fairy Stone Park Concert Series kicks off with David Via of Corn Tornado on June 13 and classical pianist Fred Moyer will perform on September 14.

David Oliver, Ray Dietz and John Reynolds enjoy the refreshments at the Volunteer Open House

A Reflection on December Events

The annual Victorian Christmas celebration at the Homestead set new records for participation and enjoyment. Suzanne and Jim Hale regaled the audiences with stories and carols using costumes and instruments from the period in their show “A Victorian Christmas.”

The events kicked off with the Homestead’s annual

Volunteer Appreciation Open House on Dec. 2, an event designed to recognize those who volunteer services throughout the year.

The Homestead hosted over 1400 elementary students from Patrick and Henry counties throughout the week of the 3rd, both at the CEC and at the high school auditorium.

Two evening performances were held with Patrick County Dancing Arts and Esprit d’Chord entertaining beforehand.

The Friends of the Homestead enjoyed a soup and salad dinner on Dec. 11 and a chance to discuss future plans for the learning center. Finally, on the 13th, the Patrick County Chamber of



Commerce hosted its December “After Hours” at the CEC with 75 members attending.



Contact Information:

Reynolds Homestead
463 Homestead Lane
Critz, Virginia 24082

Phone: 276-694-7181
Fax: 276-694-7183

Schedule Your Event
Now!

The Reynolds Homestead is the perfect place for your spring and summer events: weddings, class and family reunions, church celebrations and banquets. The Homestead has very competitive rates and serves as a beautiful setting for your special event.



Rachel Blankenship in her Victorian finery

Inclement Weather Policy:

In the event of inclement weather, information about program cancellations will be available through local radio stations and e-mail alerts, and also by calling the Homestead at (276) 694-7181. If you would like to be on our e-mail alert list, please forward your address to martinlm@vt.edu.

January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Quilters Exchange 2:00
6	7 Photo Club 6:30	8	9 Postcard Club 7:00	10	11	12
13	14 Fitness Group 6:30	15 Great Books 6:30	16	17 Movie Night 7:00	18	19
20 Weavers Exchange 2:00	21 Deco Painters 9:30 am	22	23	24 David Oliver 7:00	25	26
27	28	29 Cooking w/ Paul 10:30 am	30	31		

Upcoming Special Events

February is Black History Month and the Reynolds Homestead will host several activities you will not want to miss.

The featured exhibit is "From Morning to Night: Domestic Service in the Gilded Age South," which dispels popular notions of the concepts of "upstairs-downstairs" relationships. This new exhibit by the Maymont Foundation presents a distinctly Southern perspective on

domestic service at the turn of the twentieth century.

On Sunday February 10th at 3 p.m., Rev. Burgie Penn will host the annual "Gospel Celebration," featuring area choirs and musicians for an afternoon of gospel music and praise.

February 24th brings Michael Lasser to the Homestead at 2 p.m. to speak on the influence that song writers had on the Harlem Renaissance.

Focusing on Thomas "Fats" Waller, Andy Razaf, James P. Johnson and Duke Ellington, Lasser will demonstrate the power that music had in helping to merge black and white cultures in the 1920s.

All of these events are free and open to the general public.

For additional information, please contact Michele Fairecloth at mfairec5@vt.edu or (276) 694-7181 x 21.

Cooking with Paul

Tuesday, January 29

"Cooking with Paul" at the Homestead!

Join BTW21 personality Paul Farrar at the Homestead as he films two segments of his "Cooking with Paul" show. Mayor Kimble Reynolds, descendant of Kitty Reynolds, will assist Paul in the historic kitchen to prepare a dish served during the 1800s. Then Paul will move the show to the CEC kitchen, and with the Homestead's Eydie Clifton, will create one of her special dishes. The public is invited to attend. 10:30 a.m.

Book Sale Fundraiser

The Reynolds Homestead will hold a used book sale in June to support its summer camps for kids. In the meantime, please look through your bookcases and find a few books that you could donate to the cause! We will be accepting books through May. The next time you visit the Homestead, please drop off your donations.