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monthly



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## Community Dispatch

# Barns of Rose Hill Bids Farewell to Longtime Executive Director Sarah Ames

After six impactful years with the Barns of Rose Hill, Executive Director Sarah Ames will step aside in November to pursue the next chapter in her career.

Before joining the Barns of Rose Hill team, Ames, a Clarke County native, spent 14 years honing her skills at the U.S. Department of Interior. As a business specialist and project

manager, she became well-versed in finance, acquisition, auditing, internal controls, and information technology. With three young children at home, Ames decided to take a break from her demanding job at the federal government to prioritize family. Eventually returning to work at the DOI was always part of the plan, but a detour into the nonprofit field was entirely unexpected.

In November 2017, almost two years after leaving the government, Ames accepted a part-time position with the Barns. It wasn't long before it evolved from an administrative function into a robust, full-time leadership position. When she assumed the mantle of executive director in January 2020, the post had been vacant for nearly three years — a long gap for an organization so young. Beginning her new role right on the cusp of a global pandemic, Ames saw the Barns through difficult times and has since made significant strides to cultivate a mature, stable, collaborative, rural arts organization right in the heart of downtown Berryville.

With her children grown and the Barns of Rose Hill stronger than ever, Ames felt the time had come for her return to the Department of Interior. Equipped with an effective board of directors and a small but mighty staff, Ames is confident that the organization will embrace this change and capitalize on the opportunities it may bring.

Upon receiving the news, Howard Means, Chair of the Board of Directors, remarked, "Maybe Sarah's greatest contribution to the Barns was to help build an organization that can weather her departure. We're forever grateful to her!"



Sarah Ames, right, with Barns board member Jennifer Lee at the 2023 gala; photo by Sarah Huntington.

Ames says of her time with the Barns, "I would never have dreamed my career would include this amazing place, this amazing community, and an opportunity to find such joy and personal fulfillment in being a steward of the Barns and its mission ... I will continue to enthusiastically support the Barns in all things, whatever that looks like."

November 5 will be Ames' last day as executive director for the Barns of Rose Hill. The vacancy announcement will be listed on Indeed. Kelli Patterson, who retired as executive director of Long Branch Historic House and Farm in 2020, will take a leave of absence

from her position as treasurer of the Barns board of directors to serve as interim executive director until a new permanent executive director is identified.

— With appreciation, from the people of the Barns

*Barns of Rose Hill is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts venue and community center in historic Berryville, Virginia. Housed in two early 20th-century dairy barns that were fully restored in 2011, it is our mission to enrich lives through programs in the performing, visual, and literary arts. We present diverse programming year-round, including live music, films, lectures, workshops, exhibits, community programs, and much more.*



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# Clarke

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## COVER IMAGE

Tyler Sponseller and Rick Sponseller hold a painting by local artist Ali Hollingsworth of Tyler with his late mother Susan in front of Suecat's, Tyler's new restaurant named in honor of his mother's nickname.  
Photo by Cathy Kuehner.

## ADVERTISING SALES

Jennifer Welliver, 540-398-1450

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## AD DEADLINE

November 11

*Clarke prints signed letters-to-the-editor of uniquely local interest. Letters containing personal attacks or polarizing language will not be published. Letters may be edited. Send letters to the editor of 300 or fewer words to: editor@clarkeva.com. Include your town and state of residence.*

## CLARKE MONTHLY

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## Thankfulness Sustains Us

When the kids were young, we started our gratefulness rite. Each night at the table, after a blessing, we each shared something from the day for which we were grateful. No matter what kind of day you had had, surely there was something that was gratitude worthy. An A on an exam, the pleasure of an early night to bed, the prospect of going out for ice cream after dinner, an overnight with friends. There are times of sorrow and loss when gratitude is out of reach, but most days offer bountiful reasons for thankfulness.

Over the last decade, medical evidence has mounted that gratitude is actually good for us. Routine thankfulness helps lower stress, which in turn helps us sleep better, which helps lower stress more — enough so that gratitude correlates with lower levels of inflammation. Lower overall inflammation correlates with lower incidence of cardio-

vascular disease and chronic pain. Some research suggests that thankfulness may increase longevity.

Best of all, it appears gratitude is something that can be learned with practice. Sometimes it doesn't come naturally. It might take daily reminders like ours around the dinner table. Maybe ours had an effect. The night after our house burned down several years ago, my son, 12 years old at the time, enthusiastically declared at the dinner table: "I'm thankful we got my computer out!" After a beat, he added, "And that we got out, too."

I think this might be why autumn is my favorite time of year. The rosemary sprigs wrapped in twine drying in the window, the scents and colors in the woods, the approach of a perfect holiday that commerce has yet to mar with commercialization — they just skip it altogether.

Things are really tough

right now. Some days it seems like the entire world is coming apart at the seams. I can't imagine what it's like to be a teenager or someone just starting out in the world. For the young, we've gone from the isolation of a pandemic to the tumult of politics, to the urgent realities of climate change, to a world gripped in multiple wars and the potential for more.

We need gratitude now more than ever. Thankfulness sustains us. This special place, Clarke County, gives us plenty to celebrate. There is so much good here, so many community groups taking on challenges, companies of artists elevating our spirits, business owners devoted to our needs and wants (and not only their far-flung shareholders), congregations of the faithful sharing the spirit of love. And good neighbors.

This is a good place to be. I'm grateful for that.

— David Lillard

Our article regarding voting in Clarke County did not mention that there are two write-in candidates running for local elections.

Michelle Lane-Smithwick is running as a write-in for the school Board in the Buckmarsh District. Dave LaRock is running for Virginia State Senate.

## Reserve your place in Clarke Monthly's Holiday issues!

November Deadline - Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>  
in mailboxes beginning November 2

December Deadline - Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>  
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Community Dispatch

**Main Street Chamber Orchestra  
And The Piedmont Singers Join  
Forces For Holiday Messiah**



*Piedmont Singers at Ripon Cathedral in England, September 2022.*

The Piedmont Singers will celebrate their 25th anniversary by joining forces with the Main Street Chamber Orchestra to present two performances of Part One of Georg Frideric Handel's well-loved oratorio Messiah, December 2nd at 7pm at Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains, and December 3rd at 4 pm at Grace Episcopal Church in Berryville.

"This will be our third year of presenting a free admission holiday concert as a gift to the community," said MSCO Music Director Jon Goldberg. "When I was asked by Wendy Oesterling, director of the Piedmont Singers, about collaborating to help celebrate their milestone anniversary, I was immediately excited by the opportunity to work together with this talented group and thought it would make for a won-

derful holiday concert. Most fortunately, Wendy agreed!"

Handel's Messiah is the single most popular choral work in the world today. Originally intended to be performed during Easter, it is now more frequently heard during the Christmas season. The music has become so beloved and familiar that it is frequently presented as a community sing-along, especially the familiar "Hallelujah."

Handel himself conducted the first performance of Messiah in Dublin in 1742. It featured a chorus of 12 men and 12 boys, with an orchestra of eight musicians. The organ for the performance was shipped in from Handel's studio in London. Large scale performances grew over the years, culminating in an 1857 performance in London's



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Crystal Palace that included a chorus of 2,000 and an orchestra of 500! Messiah has been performed in London every year since 1743.

Although large scale performances are still popular, the 21st century has seen a return to performance sizes more in keeping with Handel's original score, as will the Piedmont Singers' and MSCO's presentation.

Wendy Oesterling and Jon Goldberg will lead a pre-concert chat at 2:30 pm at Grace Church Berryville before the performance on December 3rd, focusing on Handel's London life and business dealings.

The concert is free and open to everyone. Donations in support of the Piedmont Singers and the MSCO will happily be accepted.

The Main Street Chamber Orchestra is a 501(c)3 organization rooted in the community and founded to make great classical music a relevant part of life for everyone in the community. Founding musical director Jon Goldberg is a graduate of North Texas State University and Manhattan School of Music and was a conducting fellow two seasons at Berkshire Music Center, Tanglewood, at the invitation of Leonard Bernstein. He

currently serves as adjunct professor of music at Northern Virginia Community College. For more information about MSCO, visit the website at [mainstreetchamberorchestra.org](http://mainstreetchamberorchestra.org) or contact Jon Goldberg, [jongoldberg@mainstreetchamberorchestra.org](mailto:jongoldberg@mainstreetchamberorchestra.org) or 202-255-3294.

The Piedmont Singers is a musical outreach of Grace Episcopal Church, Berryville, and Grace Episcopal Church, The Plains, partners in ministry with two wonderful and welcoming communities. The Piedmont Singers offer a unique music ministry to our community, singing "solī Deo Gloria," to the glory of God alone. Founded in 1999, the choir comprises singers from 15-20 churches from our region and has become known for offering the finest in sacred choral music from the Renaissance to the present day.

Founding conductor Wendy Oesterling is Music Director at Grace Church, Berryville. She is a graduate of Wittenberg University and Shenandoah University. For more information about the Piedmont Singers, contact Wendy Oesterling at [wendyoandjimg@gmail.com](mailto:wendyoandjimg@gmail.com) or 540-539-7646.

“  
Hallelujah  
”



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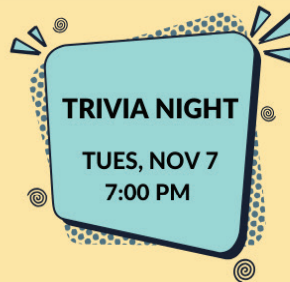
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**Berryville Welcomes Suecat's Restaurant**

By Rebecca Maynard



Sign painter Cyrus Robertson takes advantage of a beautiful autumn day to work on the windows of Suecat's, a new restaurant at 9 E. Main St. in Berryville. Robertson owns Stroker Hand-Painted Signs based in Clarke County. Photos by Cathy Kuehner.

If you have a hankering for delicious southern style cuisine, you will soon need to look no further than 9 East Main Street in Berryville, the location of the brand new Suecat's restaurant.

Set to open in early November, Suecat's is owned by chef Tyler Sponseller of Berryville. The restaurant's name honors his late mother, Susan Sponseller, who was nicknamed Suecat. The building housed the Berryville Grille from 2009 until April of this year, when owners Heidi Grubb-McClemens and Brian McClemens closed its doors.

Tyler, a 2005 Clarke County High School graduate, has been in the restaurant

industry for 18 years. After attending culinary school in Wilmington, N.C., he returned to this area and worked at the Battletown Inn, the George Washington Hotel, and Magnolia's.

Assisting Tyler in his first venture into ownership is his father Rick Sponseller, Berryville's former mayor who owns Sponseller's Flower Shop. "I love to cook and taught both of my sons to cook, and they both became chefs," Rick said.

"He taught me a lot of southern influences that I enjoy, and I'm looking forward to continuing this new endeavor with my father," Tyler said. "It's different from owning and

running a flower shop, but in a lot of ways it's the same."

Rick added that both businesses involve working with perishable products and dealing with rush times, for example.

"I've always wanted to have a restaurant," Tyler said. "Heidi and Brian had told me about four years ago that when they were ready to step down, they were going to come to me and hoped that I would take it. Brian has been sticking by my side."

"He's been very helpful, and continues to be," Rick added.

Suecat's is described by Tyler as a Southern bistro, and it will feature dishes

such as shrimp and grits, chicken and dumplings, Audley beef burgers, and smoked-in-house pastrami. Tyler said he looks forward to featuring as much food as possible from local farms.

Tyler and Rick both agreed that with all the wonderful restaurants Berryville has to offer, the one thing missing was good old-fashioned Southern style cooking. The community seems to agree, as people have continued to show interest in the restaurant's progress.

"I can't walk down the street without people wondering, 'When are you guys opening?'" Tyler said.

"It just goes to show how badly the community needs this restaurant," Rick added.

With a number of Berryville restaurants closed on Sunday, Tyler saw the need for a place offering Sunday brunch, as well as staying open a bit later. Saturday and Sunday brunch will be phased in after opening. Wine and beer, including craft beer, will be offered along with seltzers.

"Weeknights it'll be open until 10, so if you want to go get a cold beer and appetizer or something like that, you'll have a place to go, because now you don't," said Rick.

Suecat's will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays, and they plan to expand the kitchen staff over time. They are now hiring experienced cooks, servers and kitchen staff; those interested can contact Tyler at 540-917-2269 or suecatsllc@gmail.com. The Suecat's Facebook page is also updated frequently



Tyler in the kitchen at Suecat's.

and will eventually include a menu and restaurant phone number.

"I would like to send a big thank you to the community and to family, friends, and the lo-

cal farmers who are giving us their support," said Tyler on the Suecat's Facebook page. "Thank you, Clarke County, and everyone else."

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## Around Clarke County

By Rebecca Maynard

### November

#### 3 Around the World in 10 Trees

Blandy Experimental Farm. 400 Blandy Farm Lane. Boyce. Find out about the ecology and cultural significance of trees from multiple continents. For ages 8 and older. Register ahead. Non-members \$15, members \$10; family discounts. 2-3:30pm. [www.blandy.virginia.edu](http://www.blandy.virginia.edu).

#### 4 Heritage Day

Burwell-Morgan Mill. 15 Tannery Lane. Millwood. Heritage Day returns for its 12th anniversary and features cider pressing, mill grinding, reenactors, blacksmithing and more. This year's festivities will also feature numerous other historic organizations from around the area and will incorporate more historic time periods. Free; donations encouraged. 11am-4pm. [www.clarkehistory.org](http://www.clarkehistory.org).

#### 4 Making Choices in Communication

Sanctuary Wellness Center. 208 N. Buckmarsh St. Berryville. Learn how to communicate with honesty and empathy, with the power to transform relationships. \$40. 1-4pm. [info@sanctuaryberryville.com](mailto:info@sanctuaryberryville.com).

#### 4 The Beethoven Effect Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Program features two works for violin (Ariana Kim) and piano (Ieva Jokubaviciute), showing Beethoven's contrasts in spirit, as the relatively brief and serenely beautiful "Romance in F" stands opposite the epic "Kreutzer" sonata, a large, tense work of great virtuosity and emotional depth. \$25 in advance, \$30 at door, children 12 and younger free. 7-9pm. [www.barnsofrosehill.org](http://www.barnsofrosehill.org).

#### 4 -5 Holiday Craft Show

Clarke County Rec-

reation Center. 225 Al Smith Circle. Berryville. More than 100 vendors offering handmade arts and crafts, jewelry and baked goods, body and hair care products, and so much more. 9am-4pm Saturday, 10am-3pm Sunday. [www.clarkecounty.gov](http://www.clarkecounty.gov).

#### 7 Trivia Night

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. The Clarke County Library and Clarke County Historical Association team up to offer team trivia, with a variety of categories and prizes donated from local businesses. Register ahead. 7pm. [www.barnsofrosehill.org](http://www.barnsofrosehill.org). [www.clarkehistory.org](http://www.clarkehistory.org).

#### 10 Bonny Mad Boys Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Join Dwayne Brooke (guitar, vocals) and Will Spaulding (guitar) for an evening of cosmic honky-tonk, rowdy Cajun and vin-



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tage dancehall tunes. Present a receipt from a Clarke County restaurant (dated the week of the show) to gain admission at the \$5 advance price. Without qualifying receipt, tickets increase to \$10. Children 12 years and below are free when accompanied by an adult. 7-9pm. [www.barnsofrosehills.org](http://www.barnsofrosehills.org).

### 11 Bring a Veteran to a Pancake Breakfast

Boyce Volunteer Fire Company Social Hall. 1 S. Greenway Ave. Dine in or carry out. Free will offering. 7am-12pm or until food runs out. [www.boycefire.org](http://www.boycefire.org).

### 11 Turkey Trot 5K and Kids' Mile

Clarke County Recreation Center. 225 Al Smith Circle. Berryville. 5K at 9am, kids' mile run at 10am. Prizes given in different categories. Canned goods will be collected for FISH. 5K \$35, mile run \$25. Visit website for details. [runsignup.com/race/va/berryville](http://runsignup.com/race/va/berryville).

### 11 The Slave Dwelling Project

Burwell-Morgan Mill. 15 Tannery Lane. Millwood. CCHA is proud to partner with Belle Grove, Blandy Experimental Farm, and the Josephine School Community Museum as they welcome back The Slave Dwelling Project to the Burwell-Morgan Mill. Members of the Slave Dwelling Project will be on hand to discuss the everyday life of the enslaved in Clarke County, and the kinds of food they made. Free; donations encouraged. 10am-3pm. [www.clarkehistory.org](http://www.clarkehistory.org). [www.slavedwellingproject.org](http://www.slavedwellingproject.org).

### 11 Where's Aubrey Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Local violinist Gary McGraw (The Bitter Liberals) and New Hampshire songwriter Rhine Singleton are Where's Aubrey. Where's Aubrey will be joined at this show by Richmond multi-instrumentalist Charles Arthur (featured at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts) and Winchester jazz drummer Nick Shrenk. \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Children 12 and younger free when accompanied by adult. 7-9pm. [www.barnsofrosehills.org](http://www.barnsofrosehills.org).

### 11 Deep Relaxation Sound Bath

Sanctuary Wellness Center. 208 N. Buckmarsh St. Berryville. Come receive the vibrations of crystal singing bowls, voice and other instruments. Advance registration required. \$30. 6pm. [lovenotesmusictherapy@gmail.com](mailto:lovenotesmusictherapy@gmail.com).

### 11-12 Creating the Family Apothecary

Sanctuary Wellness Center. 208 N. Buckmarsh St. Berryville. Workshop series for those wanting to learn to use natural remedies to address common ailments in their homes and community. 10am-3pm. \$150. [bloomingmntsbotanical@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingmntsbotanical@gmail.com).

### 17 Tim O'Brien with Jan Fabricius Concert

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Multi-Grammy award winner Tim O'Brien and his wife Jan Fabricius have performed together nationally and internationally since 2015. In a duet setting with a guitar, a mandolin, and their two voices, they bring an intimate and warm acoustic music roots repertoire that's at once both original and traditional. \$30 in advance, \$35 at door. Children 12 and younger free when accompanied by adult. 7-9pm. [www.barnsofrosehills.org](http://www.barnsofrosehills.org).

### 18 Low Water Bridge Band

Barns of Rose Hill. 95 Chalmers Ct. Berryville. Forged by firelight picking, the Low Water Bridge Band recognizes that their romping, stomping, country-grass Americana isn't for the faint of heart. Since their founding in 2020, they've gone from barnstorming the Shenandoah Valley to festival stages along the East Coast. Standing room only. \$25 in advance, \$30 at door. Children 12 and younger free when accompanied by adult. 7-9pm. [www.barnsofrosehills.org](http://www.barnsofrosehills.org).

### 25 FISH Mobile Community Table

Shiloh Baptist Church. 1983 Millwood Rd. Dairy products, personal care items and snack packs, and food to take home "from our community table to your family table." Find out what benefits may be available to you from the Department of Social Services. Held monthly. Free. 9-11am. 540-955-1823. [www.fishofclarkecounty.org](http://www.fishofclarkecounty.org).

## December

### 3 "Messiah" Performance.

Grace Episcopal Church. 110 N. Church St. Berryville. The Main Street Chamber Orchestra joins forces with the Piedmont Singers, who are celebrating their 25 year anniversary, in a performance of Handel's beloved masterpiece. Concert is at 4pm, with a pre-concert chat on Handel's London life and business dealings at 3pm. Free admission as our Holiday gift to the community. [mainstreetchamberorchestra.org](http://mainstreetchamberorchestra.org).



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## George Ohrstrom Named Friend of the Mountain



Photo courtesy of Peter Ralston.

The Downstream Project's founder and board president, George Ohrstrom II, will be honored by Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains at its annual Celebration of the Mountains, November 5, in Round Hill, Va. Ohrstrom will receive a special "Friend of the Mountain" award for his decades-long commitment to the Shenandoah Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In addition to his leadership of The Downstream Project, Ohrstrom is a co-chair of the Piedmont Environmental Council, a founder and president of Friends of the Shenandoah River, and a longtime supporter of conserva-

tion groups like Virginia Working Landscapes, the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, and The Opequon Watershed. He is also a past chairman and board member of the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority, which has preserved nearly 10,000 acres in Clarke County through conservation easements.

Ohrstrom founded The Downstream Project in 2007 with the production of a feature-length documentary called *Shenandoah, Voices of the River*. Since then, Downstream has supported over 80 conservation and watershed nonprofits and government agencies through web development, donor management, video pro-

duction, graphic arts, and creative technology.

"We are delighted to see George honored with the Friend of the Mountain award," said The Downstream Project's executive director, Bill Howard. "George is a conservation superhero and continues to have an incredibly positive impact on our region, a legacy that will benefit generations to come."

The November 5 event will be held at C'est Bon at 6 Loudoun Street, Round Hill, 5-7:30 pm. Tickets and details are available on the Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains website: [friendsofblueridge.org](http://friendsofblueridge.org).

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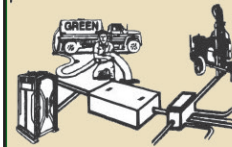
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## The Story of a Feather

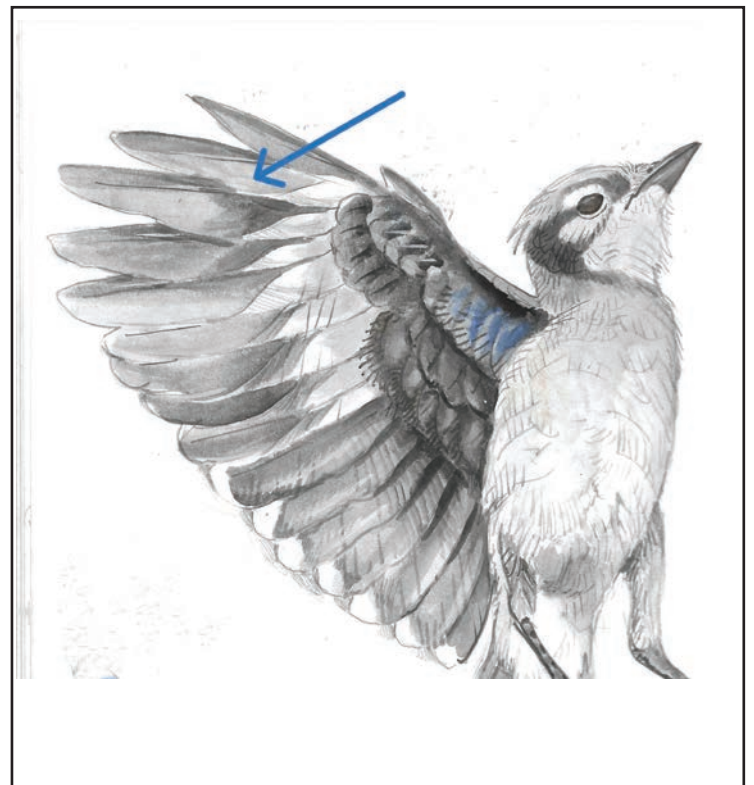
Story and images by Doug Pifer



*Feather found on grass.*

I showed my wife a feather I found in the grass under our big tulip tree. Recognizing it immediately as a primary wing feather shed by a blue jay, we marveled at its superb design. Birds keep their feathers clean and in the best condition possible. For them, feathers are life insurance.

Flight feathers are particularly important. Each feather in a bird's wing is specially designed to fit perfectly against its adjacent feathers. Wing and tail feathers overlap like the slats in a window blind. The wing feathers unite for the downward power stroke and separate for the up stroke in each wingbeat. The feathers in a bird's tail overlap so the tail acts as a brake or a rudder, with the central tail feather on top and the side feathers overlapping underneath on either side.



*Blue Jay wing underside.*

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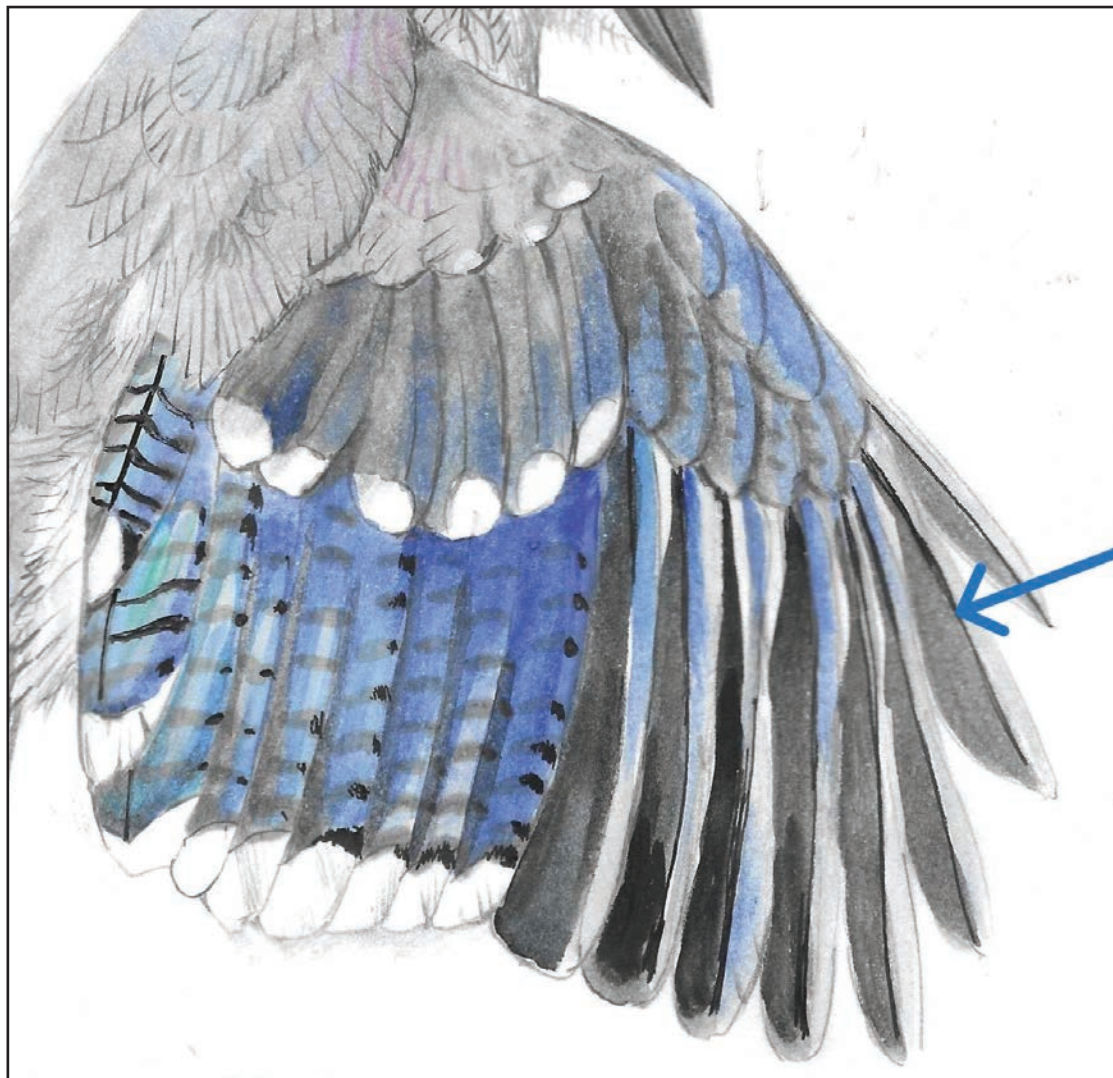
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Blue jay wing upper side.

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Feathers are built for easy maintenance. The central quill is very strong yet flexible. The webs that extend on either side of the quill are composed of individual fibers with barbs that catch against each other, like Velcro. When a bird musses its feathers, it can repair any damage simply by running its beak along the main shaft and the barbed webs slip into place.

In the attached drawing, notice how the feather tips of the spread wing open like fingers on a hand. The trailing edges of the five foremost flight feathers are notched so the tips of the feathers separate to catch the wind, while the bases still overlap.

When a bird sheds one primary wing feather, the corresponding feather on the other wing falls out at the same time. This balances the gaps so that a

missing feather doesn't hinder the bird's flight. It takes a week or more for new feathers to grow out, so the all-important wing and tail feathers are replaced very gradually.

In most birds, the hindmost flight feathers are the first to be shed and replaced. Then the next two flight feathers are shed, and the process repeats, until all primary flight feathers on both wings are brand new.

Growing feathers are soft and often bluish-colored because they are wrapped in a sheath similar to thin plastic. Called blood or "pin feathers," they're very sensitive and must be protected from injury. As a new feather grows, a bird spends a lot of time running its beak along the hardening shaft to peel the outer sheath off the growing feather. When the big quills of the flight feathers are fully grown, the quill hardens.

Looking at the sketches, it's easy to determine exactly where each feather comes from. On a blue jay's wing, the bright colors are on the part of the feather that shows, called the outer web. And the dull colors are on the inner web, the overlapping, hidden side of the feather. The inner web of each primary feather has a white area at the base, creating a white band visible on the underside of the spread wing.

Therefore, the jay feather we found was the outer primary next to the very tip of the right wing, one of the last two primaries to be replaced this season. Studying and sketching the feather patterns of a bird wing is only possible on a fresh dead specimen. I owe this sketch to the young blue jay who lost his life by flying into a glass windowpane.

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## Where's Aubrey Returns to Barns of Rose Hill With A New Record & New Beneficiary

Story and photos by Jennifer Lee

The one-of-a-kind fiddling, guitar-playing, song-writing, singing duo of Gary McGraw and Rhine Singleton returns to Berryville's Barns of Rose Hill on Saturday, November 11. Named for a mutual college friend of Gary and Rhine's, Where's Aubrey has been playing up and down the east coast — from New Hampshire to North Carolina — for nearly 40 years. McGraw is a master on the fiddle (or violin, depending) and Singleton on guitar, and together they create music and lyrics that tell both haunting and jubilant stories of place, longing, and love.

They have just com-

pleted and recorded their ninth album, called *Hole*, which they will roll out at the Barns show. "We recorded *Hole* this summer in Wilmington, North Carolina, reprising some of our favorite tunes with fresh arrangements," said Where's Aubrey fiddle player McGraw. "*Hole* will go live on streaming services November 11. Actual CDs will be available for purchase at the concert for old school listeners like us."

Joining the band for this show are three special guests. Richmond-based multi-instrumentalist Charles Arthur is a professional musician who, among



Shenandoah River by Jennifer Lee.

accomplishments too numerous to list, has toured with award-winning Americana artist Slaid Cleaves. JOBIE, an acclaimed Boston-based young singer-

songwriter-musician will join the stage. Winchester-based jazz drummer Nick Shrenk of the *Bitter Liberals* and several other area bands will hold the sticks to

bring a full-flavored, completely unique sound to the restored dairy barn, now a music venue known for its unparalleled acoustics.

As they have done for the last 17 years over 20 shows, Gary and Rhine will donate all proceeds from the show to a local nonprofit dedicated to human and environmental welfare. Over the years, they have donated \$16,912 to a variety of charities. This year's beneficiary is the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, part of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, whose work is critical in monitoring, protecting, and defending the health of the Shenandoah River.

"I'm so grateful to the folks at Barns of Rose Hill for sponsoring this Shenandoah Riverkeeper

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Gary & Rhine by Jennifer Lee.

fundraiser with the legendary *Where's Aubrey* band. The fight to protect and defend the beautiful Shenandoah River and its tributaries is critical to the health of the entire Shenandoah Valley, especially in this time of climate change's devastating impact and the other polluting pressures on our waterways," said Mark Frondorf, Shenandoah Riverkeeper since 2015. "Every dollar raised is spent wisely and beneficially. I hope to see many old friends and to make some new ones that night!"

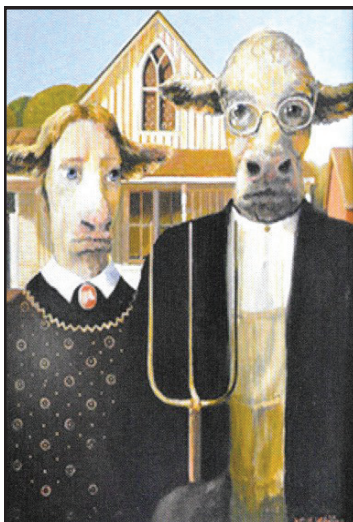
Mark will attend the show and is happy to answer questions and provide information about his work on the river.

Says McGraw, "We absolutely love performing our original music for a live audience. And since we are fortunate to have jobs as a professor of ecology (Rhine) and a software machine learning security

expert (Gary), we use our shows as an opportunity to raise money for a deserving charity instead of ourselves. Make sure to get your tickets in advance. See you at the show!"

Where's Aubrey and their special guests play at Barns

of Rose Hill on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 7pm. Barn doors open at 6pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance until 3pm day of show and \$25 at the door. Get tickets at [www.barnsofrosehill.org/concerts/wheres-aubrey](http://www.barnsofrosehill.org/concerts/wheres-aubrey).



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# Growing Awareness of Restorative Justice

By Brenda Waugh

The third week of November marks the observance of International Restorative Justice Week. During this week, various entities such as programs, communities, educational institutions, courts, and more come together to acknowledge restorative justice's role in their respective communities. They collectively explore how this role can be optimized to enhance community resilience.

Restorative justice is an approach to addressing wrongdoing that transcends the confines of punishment. Instead, it seeks to address the harm caused by collaboratively exploring responses that promote healing and accountability. My introduction to restorative justice occurred during my tenure as an assistant prosecuting attorney in nearby Berkeley County. I encountered numerous cases where victims were disheartened by our legal system's failure to provide



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them a significant role in addressing the harm inflicted upon them. Many felt frustrated by a system that could find wrongdoers guilty and mete out punishments, yet these offenders often evaded full accountability and failed to assume responsibility.

Restorative justice is not a one-size-fits-all solution, and primarily hinges on the voluntary participation of victims in criminal cases. As a set of guiding principles and values, restorative justice also informs discipline strategies in certain school systems through restorative practices. Similar to its role in our criminal justice system, in educational settings, restorative justice may offer an alternative in select situations, ensuring that offenders are held accountable while giving victims a voice in the process and the resulting outcomes.

During Restorative Justice Week, I will be actively





Participants at a restorative justice workshop in Clarksburg, W.Va., August, 2023. Photos by Brenda Waugh.

participating in an online webinar produced by the West Virginia Restorative Justice Project. This event will showcase how restorative justice is integrated into various West Virginia communities to strengthen communities. The participants will include the Honorable Michael John Aloï, a federal magistrate; Professor Debra Murphy from West Virginia Wesleyan; and Professor James Nolan from West Virginia University. They will be joined by ten different community volunteers who will describe what is happening within their communities.

Restorative justice is also expanding its potential in Virginia. While I am unaware of a statewide organization in Virginia comparable to the West Virginia Restorative Justice Project, many communities in Virginia have chosen to implement restorative justice and related practices. In 1997, a commission directed by the Virginia General Assembly recommended that the Department of Criminal Justice Services develop mechanisms for statewide

use, particularly for non-violent offenders. While this statewide implementation has yet to materialize, various initiatives have been established.

The Central Virginia Community Justice Program serves Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and Greene County. CVCJ provides a restorative jus-

tice process as a diversion from criminal prosecution or in situations outside of the legal system.

Fairfax County has adopted restorative justice programs within its school system and Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) court. Restorative practices have been integrated into Fairfax County Schools for over a decade. Virginia Beach has recently initiated a program that allows young offenders to qualify for misdemeanor cases involving theft, property damage, and simple assault through a collaboration between the Virginia Beach Police Youth Services Unit and the Virginia Beach Juvenile Court Services.

Restorative Arlington is a new initiative to incorporate restorative justice practices into Arlington County's public schools, legal system, and community. Virginia also houses several institutions that provide advanced studies in restorative justice, including Eastern Mennonite University's Center for Justice and Peace and George Mason University's Carter School and School of Continuing and Professional Education.

The West Virginia Restorative Justice Project's Restorative Justice Week webinar is open to the public, and registration can be completed at <https://bit.ly/wvrjweek>.

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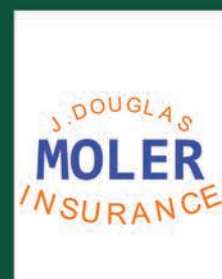
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