

Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation



Officers: Phyllis Sawyer, President; Barbara Vaughan, Vice-President; Jessica O'Connor, Secretary; Margaret Moore, Treasurer.
Board of Directors: Susan Kellam; Jim Oglesby, Mary Ann Schmidt; David Lee, Kenny Harris, Leslie Rawls.

UPDATE: YOUTH DAY – Our first event for students! Is POSTPONED
Scheduling updates for the house and events will be shared and will be posted on our website & FaceBook

A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

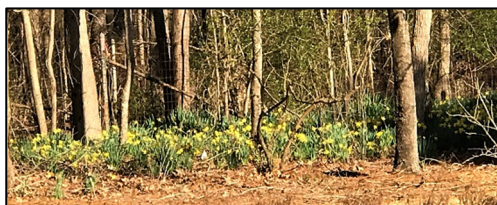
As I look out my window, it is an amazingly beautiful day. The sun is shining, azaleas are blooming, new leaves are on the trees, and the yard is full of birds of all sizes and colors.

It is with heavy hearts we closed the gate, and our doors cannot be open to guests at this time.

Although we have been asked to remain in our homes, we welcome families and friends to walk the trails of the Natural Area and enjoy the beauty of the grounds. Just maintain a safe distance as you walk and, please, no large groups.

As we navigate this current health crisis, I am reminded of another historic time. In 1855 Yellow Fever gripped the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth. According to local newspapers, it claimed more than 2,550 lives, including many who ministered to the sick.

Until life returns to normal, we can remain hopeful, be strong and vigilant, care for our families, and truly show ourselves to be VB STRONG once again



NEW & IMPROVED

We are excited to share that Terry Knight, our contractor for the house, completed some work at the beginning of March.

We have a new exterior door for the furnace room painted to match the existing trim. And a new sweep on the front door means no more cold air or rain blowing into the house!

Terry has handled a number of jobs for us, including painting of the dormer room and repairing the bedroom floor upstairs.



BOTANICAL ELEMENTS

Home Gardeners Day was held at Norfolk Botanical Gardens on January 13th. WBHF board members spoke to a number of attendees and explored some opportunities with the Friends of Historic Homes. The annual event, hosted by the Virginia Horticultural Foundation, is a great forum for community-building.

DID YOU KNOW

The WBHF will begin issuing Passports to students with a \$5 donation. Donations for future visits will be discounted by \$1. Stickers documenting visits for tours & events will be free. Passports will be first available during our Youth Day event.

HAPPY TRAILS

Adjacent to the Whitehurst-Buffington House lies West Neck Creek Natural Area. It boasts a series of shared-use trails that total approximately 2.5 miles of soft path and .3 miles of paved ADA compliant trails. In these days of caution and social distancing, you can still take advantage of the great outdoors – so stop on by, enjoy the natural beauty, get a little exercise, and breathe some fresh air.

The house is now closed for visitation in mindfulness of recent, recommended guidelines. The WBHF will post updates on our website and FaceBook page.



The Whitehurst-Buffington House is normally open 1:00- 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

VISITOR OCCASIONS

DEPARTING IN STYLE- On January 10th a retirement party was held for Ellen Burns (*below left*). Most recently she worked at the Creeds branch of the Virginia Beach Public Library.

The WBHF congratulates Ellen on her forty-five years of service & looks forward to seeing a lot more of her at the house. She is planning to spend some of her free time as a docent for us.



MEET & GREEN- West Neck Garden Club held their board meeting at the house on February 25th.

Part of the COGC, they also contribute floral arrangements to the WBHF.

The club, founded in September 2004, is open to all residents of the Villages at West Neck.



WALKABOUT- Mike Middleton brought the Hampton Roads Hikers to visit on February 2nd.

Following a hike in the West Neck Creek Natural Area, members took a tour of the house. A staunch supporter and history buff, Mike both participated in and contributed to the tour.



WBHF MEMBERSHIPS: For more information about renewing or supporting the WBHF, please visit our website at wbhouse.org

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation recently picked up some great vintage items from Lillie Gilbert. Included were metal candlewick trimmers and a sterling silver salt. In addition, she donated a wonderful antique child's rocker.

Many locals know Lillie for her advocacy in protecting local waterways, but she is also active in preserving local history.



The WBHF is always interested in 18th and 19th century period items. Articles reflecting local Princess Anne County history are also welcomed.

Anyone considering making a donation may contact Jim Oglesby at pdgjim97@cox.net or 757-426-056.

Youth Day

EVENT POSTPONED

Vickie Shafer
Herbalist

Lee Lockamy
Chief Emeritus,
Nansemond Tribe

Larry Van Nostrand
Songs & Stories
of Princess Anne County

Student Admission only \$5 donation per family.
Enjoy all activities, Tour the House & Be among the
first to receive the new WBHF Passport!

Whitehurst-Buffington House

2441 North Landing Road, Va. Beach, VA 23456
wbhouse.org - Facebook

Visit & Like the Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation FaceBook page.

The Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to the preservation of this historic home as a living example of early American life in Virginia.