



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Officers: Phyllis Sawyer, President; Jessica O'Connor, Secretary; Margaret Moore, Treasurer.
Board of Directors: Susan Kellam; Mary Ann Schmidt; Leslie Rawls, Donn Lee, Deon Dallman, Phyllis Doverspike.

SOME OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS:

Youth Day (May 7th), Fall Festival (September 23rd) and Holiday Open House (December 10th)

A FEW WORDS FROM PHYLLIS

As we begin a new year, our thoughts turn back to when the idea for preservation of the Whitehurst-Buffington House began. The loss of many historic structures in the southern part of the city was apparent. Seeing this beautiful house at the end of a long lane, windows boarded up and unkempt boxwoods hiding it from view, Barbara Vaughan proposed a group of ladies in the Court House area could save it. City officials gave permission for an event to create and raise awareness. The ladies went to work. The grounds were freshly mowed, plywood was removed, activities were planned, and the first Preservation Awareness Event was held June 29, 2008. We were off & running. A *Beacon* article brought us more attention. Fast forward to June 19, 2012, when a Lease Agreement between the City of Va. Beach and the WBHF was formalized. As 2023 begins, we can look back and celebrate 10 exciting years in this wonderful old house

AUTHOR IN THE HOUSE

During our Holiday Open House, WBHF friend Erik Moore was signing copies of his recently published *Where the Sawgrass Ends: Glimpses of the North Landing River* coffee table book. It features some of his stunning photographs and vivid descriptive prose.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The house was full of cheer for our December 11th Holiday Open House.

We were so happy to welcome supporters and new friends, families and couples, neighbors and travelers to the house! There were even some Buffingtons in attendance.



A cup of hot cider, sweet treats to taste, and a dash of beautiful weather added to great company was definitely a recipe for an enjoyable afternoon.

What a wonderful way to usher in our holiday season!

To see more pictures, visit the Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation FaceBook Page - Past Events 2022 Folder

BEHIND THE HOLLY & IVY

The WBHF would like to acknowledge the help we received in making our Open House a success.

Members of the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach returned to festoon the house with their delightful period decorations. We are especially grateful to Peggy Caverly and Kay Eckhardt for their coordination and contributions.



Guests were charmed by Bob Clark's stories & rich sounds of his hammered dulcimer. Summer Cuzzins enchanted with dulcet tunes on her violin.



And there were decorations, made of natural materials by Stephanie and Steve Sawyer, being sold.



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

GIVING THANKS

The Tsikuris family, some of whom are pictured below, celebrated Thanksgiving at the Whitehurst-Buffington House. It was the first one for newest member Lacy Grace who was born in October.



Whitehurst-Buffington House Foundation

Interested in Volunteering?

Help us with:

___ Greeting Visitors

___ Gardening

___ Serving on a Committee

___ Cleaning

___ Leading Tours

___ Special Events

___ Clerical Work

___ Other: _____

Call the Whitehurst-Buffington Foundation President at 757-427-1151 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW

Before everyone had technology at their fingertips, predicting winter weather relied on other indicators.

The Persimmon method requires slicing a soft, locally grown piece of fruit and cutting open a seed. If the inside is spoon shaped, there will be a lot of snow to shovel. A fork shape means to plan on a mild winter with light, powdery snow. If a knife shape is seen, expect frigid, cutting winds. Many naturalists still use this system.



When Goose was a more popular (and locally sourced) holiday staple, the wishbone was often saved and dried to forecast the upcoming weather. A white coloring was an indicator of a mild winter. Blue branching toward the edge signified open weather through New Year's Day. A dark color overall meant the bird had absorbed a lot of oil for protection and was a warning of a harsh winter. Purple tips were a sign of a cold spring.

One more approach is inspecting your local Woolly Worms. Actually a woolly bear caterpillar that becomes an Isabella Tiger Moth, it is said the size of its stripes can foretell conditions. A wide rusty band means a mild winter is approaching, whereas wider black bands are indicative of more severe weather. In 1948 Dr. C. H. Curran, curator of insects at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City conducted a study in Bear Mountain State Park and issued a winter forecast in *The New York Herald Tribune*.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The WBHF thanks everyone who has already renewed memberships for 2023 and welcomes those who recently joined.

Dues help with repairs and acquisitions needed to keep this wonderful historic house going.

Membership levels are:

WBHF Friend \$25

WBHF Patron \$100

WBHF Sponsor \$250 and above

Students \$10

To join, just mail to us at:

P.O. Box 56114

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Memberships renew annually in January. Members receive quarterly mailings and a discount on building use requests.

Your support is always much appreciated!

WALK THIS WAY

The 8th Annual Halloween Walk for United Way was held along the West Neck Creek Natural Trails to the Whitehurst-Buffington House. Many participated in costume to support fundraising efforts for this worthy cause.

The event is always well attended, and even Beachy the Cow joined in the fun with her Virginia Beach Farmer's Market friends this year.



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.