

To effort, no story...just doing what is expected of a human being", was Reto Meister's memory of Joe Coleman. He was referring to a time many years ago when Joe brought Robert Garwood to safety after a community wide search lasting several hours. Recalling the same incident Carolyn Ohle said "Joe tracked him as he would a deer. After two or three hours as the sun passed behind the mountain, and a chill was in the air, here came Joe, red-faced and sweating, Robert on his back. He had found him half way up Pasture Fence mountain and carried him piggy-back the whole way to the village."

Phyllis Sato describes Joe as "Innisfree's guardian angel." Among other things, he has detected and put out fires, found people in snow banks, and pulled snapping turtles from

the drain pipes in the pond prior to torrential rains. Phyllis said "Joe's vigilant eye and powers of observation" kept us out of harms' way many times. Carolyn remembered —"... looking around in a crisis, and finding Joe already on the job. When you weren't looking for him, or asking for his help, he knew

when you'd need it and he'd be there. "

How many stories are there like this? Most if not all of us have one. Some of us have several that we have lived, or that Joe has shared with us. Kathleen O'Shea remembers Joe separating the milk each morning in the basement of Meadow. "The cows had been freshly milked and Joe brought the milk to Meadow in two or three large cans. He'd separate it into smaller cans for each house downstairs " Kathleen said "and he always gave the cream to us (Meadow.)" She also remembered when we had beehives in one of the far fields "Bears kept knocking them down to get to the honey so Joe set up a bear trap. It was one of the ones where you catch the bear without harming him - a big steel barrel with a trap door. One day Joe found a bear in the trap. He called us all to

come look at it. It was a small black bear. We called the forest rangers and they came and took it back up the mountain."

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A few words Kathleen will always associate with Joe are:

Snakes - killing them - and snake stories **Hay** - bailing in the early days **Hippies** - no explanation needed

Leigh Sato said "my favorite stories are the ones that Joe tells...about the secret life that goes on behind the scenes at Innisfree... (with) a lot of wonderful detail about the nature surrounding Innisfree...and all sorts of history of Innisfree and the land tucked in here and there."

These traits and more have earned Joe Coleman a place in the hearts and memories of everyone who is or has ever been a part of the Innisfree family. Bill Costello says "In some vague but genuine sense, Joe feels like the real thing...(he) is a repository of all kinds of skills and wisdom that I tried to emulate. In the end I realized that Joe didn't learn all that he knows in such a self conscious way. Joe's life has been all about survival, and his learning is not a separate thing from his work, and his work has not been a separate thing from his life."

The last 33 years of Joe's life have been with Innisfree. Anyone who drives a car into the village is on a road Joe laid out. Few people besides Joe know that the fields, fences, and ponds we enjoy are here because of him. In 1971 when Innisfree was conceived everything beyond Walnut Level as far as the eye could see was brush and bramble. Joe changed that.

It is now 2004, and Joe, our guardian angel, is still here. This spring, while continuing to live with us in the community, Joe will try out a new role in "semi-retirement". We all wonder what that means and find ourselves asking, can a "guardian angel" ever retire?

Many thanks to the following for contributing to this article: Reto Meister, Carolyn Ohle, Phyllis Sato, Kathleen O'Shea, Trisha Costello, Leigh Sato, Bill Costello

A Big Thank You for the Cars!

We have been blessed with your generosity. Three Innisfree families have recently donated cars or money earmarked for cars, to our community. Patsy Wieboldt kindly gave her Chevy Blazer to the village. A Honda Hybrid was generously donated by Mark and Barbara Fried. The Kimsey family enabled us

to buy a pickup truck for the gardens. Your kindness is appreciated.

> Wendy Wieboldt gets ready for an outing in the Blazer.



WE ARE ASKING ANYONE INTERESTED, TO MAKE A SPECIAL GESTURE TO JOE, TO SEARCH THROUGH YOUR OLD PHOTOS... OF YOURSELVES, OF OLD COWS (YOU KNOW HE REMEMBERS EVERY SINGLE ONE), SEND A PICTURE OF YOU IN THE PAST AND PRESENT!...ANYTHING YOU LIKE. IT IS SO EASY TO MAKE COPIES IN THESE MODERN TIMES. SEND DIRECTLY TO HIM AT THE BELOW ADDRESS OR THROUGH INNISFREE'S MAIL. WE'LL PASS THEM ON TO HIM AND GET TO HEAR STORIES ABOUT YOU...(REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME LEST YOU BE REFERRED TO SIMPLY AS 'HIPPIE.')

Joe Coleman 5490 Walnut Level Rd. Crozet, VA 22932

Welcome to Kate Kilday!

Dogwood has a new housemate. Kate (Katherine) Kilday moved in. Recently Bridget interviewed Kate to help introduce her to you.

Bridget: Where did you live before coming to In-

nisfree?

Kate: North Palm Beach Florida. Bridget: How old are you? Kate: I'm 22 years old.

Bridget: Do you have any brothers or sisters? **Kate:** A sister Caroline (she's a student at the Uni-

versity of Virginia)

Bridget: What do you like best about Innisfree?

Kate: The view

Bridget: Who's your favorite singer?

Kate: Josh Groban

Bridget: What is your favorite movie?

Kate: The Titanic

Kate enjoys the pottery, is very helpful with grating cheese for the community lunches and enjoys singing along with Josh Groban and the Opera Babes.

Welcome to Innisfree, Kate!

Kim Horan and Kate Kilday - new friends.





Carmen, Aline and Gail take a break from work

Volunteer Update

Tt's great to report that we have full staffing now

Luntil the summer.

Just to let you know who we are:

Trillium Gillian Preston **Halcyon** Pete Jugovich

Aline Furter (France)

Laurel Arvin Cohen (Chicago)

Connie Welsh (Philly)
Yann Bernard (France)
Caty Mayall (England)

Dogwood Anna Little

Uli Busching (Germany)
Sunflower Carmen Tuluca (Romania)

Michiel Nankman (Netherlands)

Meadow Kathleen O'Shea

Fako Fako (Lesotho)

Gail Ford (North Carolina)

Amity Sharon Snyder

Cabell Coward (Crozet)

Sandra Brandstaetter (Austria)

Walden Katie Arrants (Florida)

Dolores Curry (Charlottesville)

The New Magnolia

Michael Singleton (England) Barb Vigour (Charlottesville)



Innisfree Village Voice a newsletter of

Innisfree Village, Inc. 5505 Walnut Level Rd. Crozet, VA 22932

434-823-5400 FAX 823-5027 email: innisfreevillage@ prodigy.net

Newsletter correspondence should be addressed to: Nancy Chappell

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Together We Can Make It

INNISFREE 2004 CALENDAR

Mayfair May 22

Family Day November 20

Winter Vacation
Tues, Dec 21 – Tues, Jan 4

Please see our brand new look at www.innisfreevillage.org.



INNISFREE VILLAGE 5505 WALNUT LEVEL ROAD CROZET, VIRGINIA 22932

434-823-5400 434-823-5027 FAX

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Nonprofit Organization US Postage **PAID** Crozet, VA Each year as we prepare the annual appeal materials we try to put together words and images that will be pleasing to the eye, informative and compelling. Many hours are spent writing, editing, folding, stuffing and mailing, all with a sense of urgency and a desire to communicate the essence of Innisfree to a broad audience. Then we sit back, take a deep breath and watch hopefully for the little white envelopes to arrive in the mail. Once again we have not been disappointed. How wonderful to end the year knowing that so many people want to be a part of the Innisfree story.

The good wishes and generosity of the following people is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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