

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
SUMMER 2007

The Trillium Landscape

by Carolyn Ohle

With any flower garden there are colorful years and weedy ones. There are seasons when the conditions are perfect for columbine, but the next year wisteria and pansies are perfection, years when mulch is spread too late or not at all. It's true with a vegetable garden, too of course. I still remember the year of the zucchini in 1976 and the year of cantaloupe in 1982, the year the tomatoes were sparse. Personally, I'm longing for the year of the beet!

But the flower garden at Trillium is an especially wonderful blend. Heinz planted the foundation with azaleas and rhododendron. I added oodles of bulbs and coral bells. Trisha gave me a beautiful clematis that climbs up the pillar near the garage and is just getting ready to bloom after more than 10 years of summer color. I planted a weeping cherry in the early 90's when it was only one foot tall and it now towers above the house. It is spectacular for about 10 days early each spring with the draping blossoms forming a haven for butterflies. A

beautiful rose bush has been planted in memory of Nancy Juergens and a crepe myrtle to honor Margie



Miller. Lee added blueberries that you can pick right into your cereal bowl when eating breakfast outside. She and Bill put in a fig tree that bears plentifully protected by south wall of the house.

In these last years, the garden has been lovingly tended by Gillian Preston. Today there are hummingbird feeders and blue bird houses on the garden edges, pots of basil and cherry tomatoes on the deck, a screened porch with lush house plants and Gillian's knowing eye for picking just the right assortment of flowers and grasses for a fresh bouquet on the dining room table.

This summer we will say goodbye to Gillian's green thumb as she and Scott leave Trillium for their next adventure. The time has gone so quickly. Gill and Scott arrived at Innisfree in September 1993 just after Hurricane Emily blew through nearly flattening our entire vegetable garden. They willingly waited a day while we got ourselves put back together, and became presentable. Then after their three day visit, we sent them off for awhile as we decided and they picked apples at the Maupin Orchard. Fortunately for us they agreed to come live with us when we extended the invitation.

Now 14 years later it's a time of change. How hard to say farewell to such good friends, people who have become a part of the Trillium landscape and our daily lives at Innisfree! We will miss them dearly and think of them often as we weed our gardens and prepare for a new season.

Innisfree creates a memorial garden for the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. Jake came up with the idea and is shown directing the plantings.



Gillian & Scott say farewell

It's almost 14 years since we arrived at Innisfree in October 1993. Like many others we arrived expecting to stay for one year, only to find the years somehow just passed by and we are still here.

We arrived in our little white

camper van having been on the road for 4 months, and were looking for somewhere to be through the winter. Having met in a Camphill community in New Zealand we were looking for a special community to join, but knew nothing of Innisfree until we visited Kimberton Hills in PA where we met the sister of an Innisfree volunteer. Ironically we had driven up the Blue Ridge Parkway to get to PA so had passed within a few miles of Innisfree.

We enjoyed our 3-day visit, completed our applications and went off to Whitehall to pick apples while the community made a decision. Someone then came and found us in the orchard to tell us we had been accepted, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Interestingly in all the years we have only lived in 2 houses, Laurel and Trillium, with several moves between the two and a spell living out of the village and commuting. Scott began as a volunteer and was responsible for maintenance and cars. After 2 years he started working outside the village and coming home to whichever "family" we were living with at the time. In this way he has always been an enormous support to me, and maintained his many coworker friendships.

I began in the weavery, and then moved into the office doing recruiting for a while and then

developing a medical role, but the work role has always been secondary to the home life for me. What has kept me here has been life sharing; the joys and challenges of living 24 hours a day with people who know how to make me laugh and cry and can push all of my buttons at the same time! I have introduced new people to the community, and said goodbye to dear friends at their life's end. I have met people from all over the world, and celebrated the rhythms of the day, and the seasons of the year. All of this surrounded by the incredible physical beauty and serenity that is Innisfree.

I have been asked for advice as I ponder my experience here. I would ask that all of you who have said nice things to me, written cards, invited me out for dinner or to visit, now do the same for someone who is not leaving. Everyone here gives all they have to give and deserves the warm glow of appreciation I am now feeling.

Now it is time for us to move on, and at the end of July we will get back into our campervan to drive out of the village. Initially to Waynesboro, where we have a house to finish renovating, then we will resume the travels that brought us here 14 years ago and that will take us wherever we need to go next. Leaving will be hard, but I know wherever I am I can close my eyes and be back here. Farewell!

Susanna Byrd, second from left, has volunteered for 3



Lee and Bill have moved!

Lee Walters and Bill Wylie have moved to Ghost Ranch of the residential staff. Ghost Ranch, former home to Lee, is now a Presbyterian Conference and Retreat Center. Lee has lived there many summers. Over the years Mitch Pearce, John, and I have had the freedom of the Ranch as well. Check out the website www.ghost-ranch.org and a catalogue of courses offered. They have a spare room. They'd love to see you out there! Their new address

A Walk with Julie

by Lisa Gerlits

The other day Alexander and I took a walk with Julie. He, of course slept through the entire thing, but I found myself noticing things I never had before. We've all seen Julie on her walks. Whether blazing a trail across a field or cutting a path behind the duplex, she carries that compost bucket diligently. I've seen the way she goes, but I had never walked the way she walks.

At first glance her route seems like a shortcut, but in fact it's longer because she goes exactly where she wants to go, not where the road leads her. Coming up from the garden compost, we walk behind the office, out across the parking lot, darting straight across the road to plunge onto the CC lawn. We pass through the clearing where Sharon and Lonnie got

married. As I walk, I can almost hear the distant sound of a lone bagpipe. We continue past the CC, behind the row of fat cypress huddled around the dumpster, to the back of Amity. We pass a young tree with a plaque beneath it, dedicated to Matthew



Wickerhauser, and a voice echoes in my head: "Dark soon!" I am wearing a sweater that he used to wear and that I rediscovered in Walnut Level on my return to Innisfree.

Julie leads me past another young tree. I don't even have to look at the plaque to know this is Robert Burrows' tree. On one of the middle branches dangles a little ducky keychain that somehow

managed to hang on through our recent wind storms.

We skirt the edge of Amity's lawn, behind the small stand of pines, and cut diagonally through the field, taking the narrow path that Julie has single-handedly worn into existence. All around us new grass, buttercups, and a stray poppy or two spring up from the still-wet earth. Again we cross the road and pass Dogwood, heading for the backside of Oz.

Julie likes to walk behind buildings, skirting the edge where she sees the unfinished side of things. From here I see quite a different side of our life in the Village than the view from the road affords me. I see a concrete slab and a tangle of thick wires bursting up from the ground like dark plants. I also see the edge of the forest, that line where the trees and bramble butt up against the houses, ever encroaching, creeping out to meet us. Beneath our feet, dry leaves crunch and windblown twigs snap. The creek burbles and the birds sing. Violets bloom like little footprints at the backside of Laurel, and we are home.

I go upstairs and walk into the baby room, a room where many many people before me have laid their heads to rest, have stared out the window, have laughed, have felt lonely, and have found a new home. I gaze down at my sleeping baby and marvel at how blessed we are to live in a place where we can each choose our own way to walk, and how wonderful to occasionally forego our own way of walking and walk another's path.

and from the left, is Bob's niece and
weeks in June. Great to have her here!



ch in Northern New Mexico where they are part
o rustlers, a dude ranch and Georgia O'Keeffe is
Lee, Bill and Luke have vacationed and volunteered
enny Levin and Chris Busse enjoyed the beauty and
e, ghostranch.org, to see pictures of their new home
re room and the Ranch can sleep and feed 450 people.
is Ghost Ranch, HC77, Box 11, Abiquiu, NM 87510.



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

BOARD OF OFFICERS

Craig Dreilinger
President

Barbara Fried
Chairman

Rich DeMong
Vice President

Tom Nicholson
Treasurer

Greg McDonough
Assistant Treasurer

Frank McDonough
Secretary

Krissy Lasagna
Recording Secretary

Melinda Robinson
Assistant Recording Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carolyn Ohle

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Wes Andrews

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Chappell

James Kinsey

Wes Kitchens

Harvey Laub

Geri Schirmer

Annie Stafford

Photographs by
Nancy Chappell
Carolyn Ohle

Newsletter layout by
Becky Frith Garrity

Katrina Relief Benefit at Innisfree

Service Civil International volunteers are partnering with Innisfree co-workers for a workcamp in Louisiana this August. We will volunteer for one week in St. Bernard Parish, an area outside New Orleans, still struggling to re-build its community after Hurricane Katrina. Before we take off we will hold an Empty Bowls benefit to raise money for the Mustard Seed, their local distribution center. Empty Bowls is a movement among

potters to end hunger - you enjoy a simple meal in a bowl crafted by local potters in exchange for a donation. You are warmly

invited to attend our benefit on August 18th at Innisfree. If you would like to join us for an evening of food and entertainment, please call Kristin at 434-293-8748.



*Left:
Elizabeth Tedford
has come from
Kansas to be a
garden intern this
summer.*

*Below:
Our chicken
tractor is fully
occupied with these
chickens, lovingly
raised by Connie.*

Looking for a Special Person

Innisfree has recently begun the search for a couple of self-motivated, talented people: one to manage and maintain our farm and grounds, another to care for and repair our buildings and equipment. Clearly we're looking for an exceptional person who can work cooperatively within our community and compatibly with all who live here. We are

eager for someone who shares our respect for the land where we live and can follow through to complete tasks in a timely manner. Experience as a farm manager, a maintenance superintendent, or building contractor is necessary.

Please share this notice with someone you know that might be just the right person for Innisfree. Applicants may contact WorkatInnisfree@aol.com or call Carolyn at 434 823-5400.

Please see our web site at www.innisfreevillage.org

INNISFREE VILLAGE

5505 WALNUT LEVEL ROAD
CROZET, VIRGINIA 22932

434-823-5400
434-823-5027 FAX

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Crozet, VA
Permit No. 17