

# Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE  
WINTER 2009



## Where Did the Time Go?

I arrived in this beautiful community in July, 1992 with my 2 year old son, Galen. Now I have plans to leave in May, 2009 with a 19 year old son, Alex. Many things have changed in our lives, (besides my son's name), in the village and in the world since then. From my own reckoning, we have had 34 housemates from 5 different countries and lived in 6 different houses. Maybe that's why the idea of living alone now has some appeal. There are so many memories; dancing with Judith, picking up many new volunteers at buses and airports, singing with Marny, meetings, fresh bread delivered to the door, swimming with Stephen, late night parties, meetings, preparing volunteer goodbye books over and over, harvesting fresh vegetables for dinner, watching Megan, Aaron and Alex play and grow, problem-solving at office meetings, and bringing a herding dog onto a cow farm (not a good idea – Donovan does much better in town, you might like to know).

Thank you to everyone willing to share this dynamic life full of ups and downs with my little family. My selfish side wanted to raise my son with the benefit of a village and I wanted to come to run the US branch of SCI- Service Civil International – which was then housed at

Innisfree Village. I guess we got so much more than that and I hope my contribution came to embody much more than that too.

I learned so many things; gained self confidence, can cook for 60 with little effort, helped create our website, responded to emergencies, lost weight/ gained weight, counseled broken hearts and falling in love, served on the Board, learned to weave, gained many lessons on death and dying, can admit that I'm not too good with numbers or exact details, but I can multi-task on many levels.

The next stage, initially, is to go to Europe and visit with the Innisfree friends I have made from Helsinki to Barcelona and many places in between. Alex is moving out in the next weeks, my mother will happily take Donovan for some months and I am giving myself a 5 month vacation – from parenting my son and the 70 other folks who have been part of my family for these 17 wonderful years. After that, who knows? I have Hope and I seek Change – now where have we heard that before?

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT**

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## Down on the Farm

By Peter Traverse



Photograph by Tom Cogill

Coming to Innisfree has been a blessing. We are enjoying the village and the wonderful people who make it so inviting. Our first full year is coming to a close and we are excited about

the future. Things got busy on the farm pretty quickly. Through a neighborly contact made by Connie, we acquired a pastured egg operation and have been collecting, washing, sorting and delivering eggs to local health food stores as well as providing eggs through the Pasture Fence store here in the village since mid-May. We will be adding some sheep to the farm this spring. We're very excited about working with sheep again and we think that folks here will enjoy the critters as much as we do.

Coworkers have been busy with chicken chores and assorted projects around the farm. Under Connie's thoughtful guidance, Chris L., Heyward, Jake, Wendy, Vinh and assorted volunteers have washed more than 48,000 eggs in the past eight months! Matt helps us two days a week with haying the cows and maintaining the farm. Paul assists with the weekly cattle check; he calls the cows to the barn for their minerals and salt. Chris G. and Chris B. have demonstrated pride and enthusiasm for keep-

ing the lawns and grounds of Innisfree looking sharp.

We plan to expand on their good examples this spring with more focused activity around the grounds keeping aspects of the village. Lawn mowing, trimming, weeding flower beds, mulching around trees - there will be lots of enjoyable outdoor chores!

On the broader picture of land management, there are many new and exciting things happening. We have begun to install new livestock fences for the rotational grazing system that will play a critical role in building our soil fertility while keeping our water clean. Many of the projects we will be tackling over the next several years will focus on land stewardship and ecosystem services such as controlling nutrient run off, reducing soil erosion and restoring natural habitat and diversity to our streams, fields, and woodland. There are plenty of things to keep us busy and tons of opportunities for volunteers

and coworkers for years to come.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote:

*"The best things in life are nearest: Breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of right just before you. Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life's plain, common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things in life."*

We feel the same way. Deb and I find great reward in working the

land as a family. We enjoy our walks to the pastures checking on cattle and improvements to the land. The quiet reflection we experience



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at the end of the day, while listening to the slow rhythmic munching sound of animals grazing, has given us much insight into ourselves, our children, our relationship to others – and what makes a life of work so rewarding.



**January 15-17, 2009**

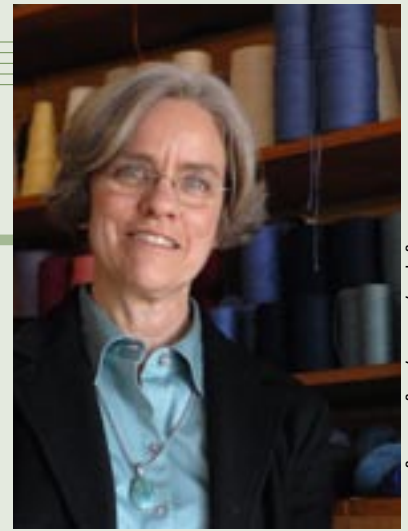
Sponsored by the Boyd Tinsley Foundation, the Bama Works Fund, Kroger, Virginia National Bank, and the Fried Family, The Xperience Invitational Special Olympics Tennis Tournament was held at the Boars Head Sports Club in January. Athletes from 10 states participated in this marvelous event. Mark and Barbara Fried generated the original vision for The Xperience and engaged many groups in making the event a reality. The Boar's Head



tournament. Two of our Innisfree Community were among the invited athletes. Jon Fried and Chris Raupp played excellent tennis throughout the matches, each receiving beautiful Xperience participation medals and vivid memories of excellent sportsmanship. Congratulations to Chris who earned 4<sup>th</sup> place in the top division and to Jon who brought home the Gold.

*Jon, Chris and Rick Jeffries*

On December 24, 2008, Carolyn Ohle, Innisfree's Executive Director received a wonderful honor. The Daily Progress, our local Charlottesville newspaper, chose Carolyn as the first of this year's *Distinguished Dozen*. Writing portraits of a group of twelve remarkable local community members over about two weeks, the Daily Progress told about Carolyn's coming to Innisfree in 1976, driving from Ohio to find the Village after reading an article written by George Will of the Washington Post. The portrait highlights her years as a Volunteer, then as the head of the Weavery and ultimately as Innisfree's Director. Leading Innisfree's recent effort to create a new category called Lifesharing Community (a designation recognized by the Department of Social Service) was one of the accomplishments that identified Carolyn as part of this season's Distinguished Dozen.



Photograph by The Daily Progress: Megan Lovett



**Innisfree Village Voice**  
*a newsletter of*

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Please see our web site at [www.innisfreevillage.org](http://www.innisfreevillage.org)

## World Artisans Closes

On Saturday, January 17, 2009 Innisfree World Artisans closed its doors for the final time. Begun more than ten years ago, our fair trade craft store on the downtown mall was the creative idea of long time volunteer, Pete Jugovich. Pete's inspiration and dedication to fair trade products, coupled with Marianne Robert's business plan and the village community's enthusiasm helped the store find a willing market in Charlottesville. Early success meant the store became an important work place and destination for Innisfree coworkers.

Throughout this last decade in retail sales, Astrid Bailey has been our store manager. Her lilting Spanish accent and friendly greetings enhanced the appeal of shopping at a store filled with Ten Thousand Villages and SERRV fair trade products from around

the world. Handwoven scarves and placemats, breadboards and stir fry spatulas spread the word of Innisfree's own workshops and rounded out the inventory.

Our favorite customers will miss this cheerful store. But take heart! Our weavery and wood-shop products are still available in Charlottesville and nearby towns. Take a look at The Virginia Shop at Barracks Road Shopping Center, C'ville Arts (formerly called Transient Crafters) on the Downtown mall, and Noon Whistle Pottery and Studio in Stanardsville to find

your favorite Innisfree crafts.

Thank you Astrid and part-time workers Valerie Listorti and Marla McNamara, volunteers Dell Erwin, Fran Feigert and Heja Chung plus all our loyal customers!





# Innisfree Donors 2008

*Our 2010 Campaign is an ambitious fundraising effort spearheaded by the Board of Directors to create a critically important endowment fund. This Campaign has the goal of ensuring each of our initiatives – enhancing our scholarship fund, creating new and maintaining existing physical structures, attracting and retaining our exceptional volunteers, and providing suitable work for our coworkers in all stages of their lives. The people listed below have stepped forward to join this multi-year effort. We hope you will join us to ensure that these initiatives can be fully implemented.*

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*Truth is, every year at Innisfree is memorable! This past year, 2008 has been no exception. We have enjoyed the pleasures of our new Cabana built beside the renovated swimming pool, the Farm Manager's house, Bittersweet completely remodeled and the addition of a new hoop house by the Herb Garden. In balance, we have felt the sorrow of several goodbyes to dear Innisfree Friends, Harvey Laub, Howard and Nancy Diamond and Lore Millick. A very special thank you to those who sent gifts in their memories and in support of our mission.*

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 If you see an error, please contact us so that we may correct this listing.*

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