



Winter 2017



Looking Ahead to a Bright Future for Shiloh Schools

An Open Letter from Jack Moore,

NPI President

*Celebrating the accomplishments of 2017
and supporting the expanded 2018 efforts to
enrich the Shiloh School experience for all
Northern Neck residents and visitors.*

Many of us remember well the iconic line from the 1989 movie “Field of Dreams.”
“If you build it, they will come.”

That line came to mind recently as I revisited the extraordinary 2017 activities of Northumberland Preservation Inc’s Shiloh School.

The year 2017 in many ways represents an “end” and a “beginning.” The goals of a 10-year restoration of the 1906 school were essentially met and long held desires to get running water and a modern toilet became a reality. It’s not unrealistic to think of the effort as something of a “second

restoration,” one entirely in keeping with the historic nature of the original building.

It takes no crystal ball to expect that 2018 will likely dwarf the year now ending in terms of more people coming, more events taking place, and ...just plain old more of everything that’s good and important about Shiloh School.

Make no mistake about it: Much has been done and much remains to be accomplished, and ongoing TLC and routine maintenance will remain a regular need. As will the continued beautification of the two acres that are home to the 1906 school house and the original 1884 school building, now newly relocated on the property and restored to its original character.

One need only imagine the annual number of visitors to the nearby Hughlett Point and Dameron Marsh natural area preserves who will appreciate the new convenience of having a nearby bathroom available. That welcoming “comfort station” as part of the new on-site bathroom/storage building is the result of efforts that officially got under way in 2016 and that culminated in 2017. Along with the six newly installed outdoor picnic tables on the site, there’s no doubting that the advances help pave the way for a range of on-site activities and events that previously were just impractical.

Among those taking advantage of the newly welcoming Shiloh School physical site is the Master Gardeners and its shoreline evaluation team, a number of whose members recently lunched and relaxed on our “campus” after exploring the wealth of native plants at Hughlett Point. They enjoyed their BYO lunches and used the school to review projected images of, and learn more about, the plants they had just visited. What a great way to enrich their learning experience!

Northumberland Preservation Inc. ("NPI") is a registered 501(c) (3) Charitable Organization for Historical Societies and Related Historical Activities. PO Box 65, Wicomico Church, VA 22579

www.northumberland-preservation.org





Winter 2017

With initial plantings this past September and October of a variety of native plants – and with the second wave of plantings now scheduled for the early spring of 2018, Shiloh is working with a design created by Master Naturalist Paula Boundy, one of the experts to have spoken at Shiloh this year as part of the school’s ongoing public outreach efforts.

With two-dozen or more varied species of native plants, our short-term goal is to have native plants blooming at various stages throughout the entire growing season. We expect that will make Shiloh School one of the area’s leading resources for Northern Neck residents and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our distinctive native plants at an open and welcoming facility.

With other shrubs and trees also being carefully placed around the grounds, we’re optimistic too that pollinators will also make Shiloh a “must” on their list of things to do while in our area.

Want to learn more details about these exciting gardening initiatives? In these upcoming chilly weeks, you can do so from the comfort of your own home and desk-top or lap-top computers: <https://www.facebook.com/ShilohSchool/>.

As NPI Education Chair Martha Tallent makes clear elsewhere in this year-end mailing, the NPI Board will always have as its priority the preservation and restoration of the historic Shiloh Schools with a focus on the educational commitment that is the soul of its mission.

In providing resources in support of the 2017 “Just Gardens” Tour and in sponsoring public presentations on Ditchley, on Dug In Farms, and on planning for one’s own native plant garden, we’ve continued steps to fulfil that mission.

But as Robert Frost so eloquently reminded us all in his famous “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy

Evening,” we fully appreciate that we have “miles to go before [we] sleep, and miles to go before [we] sleep.”

In the end, it’s not “our” Shiloh School, but rather “your” Shiloh School. It’s a rare historic treasure that belongs to no single one of us, but rather to ALL of us. More than ever, we’re keenly appreciative of the critical support that comes from residents throughout the Northern Neck to keep Shiloh a critical part of our community and of our character.

I encourage each of our members to again support Shiloh with a tax-free donation at whatever level you can comfortably afford. Send in your year-end donation, payable to Northumberland Preservation, Inc., P.O. Box 65, Wicomico Church, VA. 22579

To learn more about accessing the facility or to reserve it for a group function, e-mail me at hollyhouse.jack@gmail.com.

Those for whom Shiloh was an indelible part in their pasts – such as the school’s last surviving student, Ms. Margaret Pittman, who passed away early this fall – will deeply appreciate your generosity. So too will all those for whom the historic school buildings will continue to play an essential future educational role.

We look forward to your joining us in coming months for the Shiloh School activities we’ll soon be announcing.

All best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy 2018.

Jack Moore





Winter 2017

The Future of Shiloh School

by *Martha Tallent*

In 1989 a group of people had a vision about reintroducing an important segment of our Northern Neck history through the restoration of Shiloh School.

Almost thirty years later, because of their hard work and the dedication of a new generation of visionaries, we have a jewel to present to the public. As you know, a mission of Shiloh School is education. We have stories handed down from former pupils, artifacts, and the written history of parents who donated land and labor to help their children be better prepared to contribute to their world. Over the years we have sponsored field trips by the public schools. We need to continue to collect stories from the older generation to share with our children and grandchildren. This adds value to the rich repository already at the Shiloh School.

Now we're at a crossroads.

I bring this to you, staunch supporters over the years, with a plea for help. We need to form a data base of organizations, here and as far away as Richmond and Washington, whose leaders might value having a special place to meet, picnic,

experience Hughlett's Point or Dameron Marsh, explore the area by bicycle trips, star gaze, have a wedding reception, a family reunion, or request a reenactment, etc., etc. The possibilities are endless.

We don't want Shiloh School to lie idle because too few people know of its availability. We have a jewel in our midst and want to be able to introduce it to as many disparate groups and neighbors as possible. We want to be able to expand our advertising net as wide as possible. Shiloh Schools deserve the recognition their place our Northern Neck history reserves for them.

Besides the wonderful school building and its history, a separate building includes a small kitchen and a flush toilet. Six picnic tables outside and a native garden add to the ambiance. Limited assistance with event organization is also possible.

Please contact me, Martha Tallent, Education Chair, NPI, at 453-6832 or at tallent@va.metrocast.net with ideas for groups to use the site. A contact phone number or email number and person to ask for would be appreciated. Your help will be very much appreciated and may well be the axis on which Shiloh School continues to revolve, evolve and succeed.





Winter 2017



**Membership is \$15/person
& \$25/families \$500/Lifetime**

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount of Support

\$ _____

NPI is also offering *Lifetime Memberships* for gifts of \$500 or more and will welcome any additional donations to assist in the maintenance costs of the schools and newly built facilities.

We are also looking for interested people to co-organize clubs, such as an Astronomers' club or Runners' club, using the Shiloh School's facilities for meetings and events. All ideas are welcomed and may be submitted to Pres. Jack Moore at hollyhouse.jack@gmail.com

