



Winter/Spring (March) 2024

Welcome to our loyal and new members. We'd like to take this opportunity to bring our community up to date with what's been going on at the Shiloh Schools and what things are in the works. As always, we are very keen to continue preserving both the memories of a one room country schoolhouse as well as the actual school buildings themselves.

It is also our mission to present relevant historical lectures regarding these iconic rural American learning institutions and to tap into our own rich local history since the early settling days of the 17th Century, by bringing in diverse experts to reveal parts of our intriguing past.

Interview with 1906 Shiloh School Student

In 1990, Helen Lee Fletcher, then a member of the NPI Board, interviewed Mrs. Addie Bell (Diller) Harding, who as a child began attending the Shiloh School in 1906. This was the first year of the newer school and she relates a number of interesting facts about the School, Jessie Ball DuPont as a teacher and her classmates.

(Tap on the link below to hear the 35-minute interview)

[1\[1\] Interview with 1906 Shiloh School Student, Northumberland County, VA by Anchorage24](#)

What We've Been Up To...

Most recently, this past month, we had gutters put onto the new utility building that houses the Kitchen, Bathroom, Storage, and Water Heater. This was done to help protect the foundation of the unit from developing water damage.



We encourage other local groups to use our facilities for meetings

Another objective of NPI is to offer the Shiloh Schools to the community for meetings, picnics, concerts etc. This is one of the reasons why we started the Shiloh School Astronomy Club. Aside from being in an absolute ideal place for observing our Universe, it is also a fun activity to do with family and friends. So, if you are looking for a place to hold meetings, arrange lectures or to bring your neighborhood together for a cookout, let us know! We have electricity running into both the 1884 and

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1906 Schoolhouses with enough power and lights in the 1906 Schoolhouse, making it a convenient site for meetings, lectures, etc. We also have a bathroom and kitchenette in the center utility building, which is made available to those wishing to use the facilities for an event.

Having just sorted out the issues surrounding the new gutters on the utility building, we will need to begin some minor interior work in the kitchen and bathroom which will require some new drywall, flooring, and painting type work, which we try to do ourselves when possible. So, if any of our members who are handy with these types of jobs would like to pitch in, we are always looking for help.



The 1884 School Restoration

We have nearly completed the new floor in the 1884 Schoolhouse and we are in the process of moving much of the actual authentic schoolhouse interior objects, such as period school desks, wood burning stove, wall hangings etc., into the building in order to make it more of a trip back in time. This will also free up space in the 1906 School making it more available to different types of community events.

If you believe you have something appropriate to add to the one-room-schoolhouse experience, please let us know and send us a picture and we will be most grateful for the donation.

As we transform the 1884 Schoolhouse into more of a museum, we will continue to try and source authentic furniture such as 1880s school desks, as seen below and other schoolhouse artifacts from the period.



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Historical Architecture and Art

We are organizing some art outings, for beginners through expert painters and sketchers alike, using some of our magnificent historical homes in the County as the subject of the exercise.

If you are an artist with experience teaching and would like to assist us in this endeavor, please contact Tommy Byrne (aVirginiaBreeze@yahoo.com).

Depending on the skill set of those interested in joining in on this venture, we may decide to make a contest out of it.

International Dark Sky Community Program

Because Northumberland County is considered one of the darkest areas on the East Coast and because Shiloh School is in a secluded area of the county, we are investigating applying for a designation as an International Dark Sky Community site. We believe this would increase interest in the Shiloh School Astronomy Club and would make some potential grants available to Shiloh School (NPI).

This is, however a long drawn out process, so we do not expect any such designation in the near future. But we will continue to have events sponsored by the Astronomy Club.

Upcoming Events



NASA Engineer, Brad Perry, will speak at Shiloh School on May 3rd at 7:15pm on Stars and Galaxies followed by a sky viewing afterwards.

This is a great opportunity to begin a new hobby, if you haven't yet gotten involved with Astronomy or if you have but haven't found a local club with interesting speakers and members, come join us May 3rd. This is also an excellent opportunity for starting a hobby you can share with the entire family. Please contact us at aVirginiaBreeze@yahoo.com if you'd like to attend the talk and Star Party.

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'Upcoming events, continued...

Blooms & Butterflies

June 22, 1pm to 3pm, we will have a presentation on all of the different types of Butterflies our Native Garden is attracting. There will also be an opportunity to peruse the Garden and ask questions about it by some regional experts. Snacks will be served.

Wooden Barrels

We are looking for two used Oak Barrels to act as Rain Barrels for the Schools' Native Garden. If anyone has one or two to donate, please contact Tommy Byrne at aVirginiaBreeze@yahoo.com



This is Where You Come In to Make a Big Difference

Just as with our own homes and grounds, care of the Shiloh Schools site takes constant attention, volunteer time and money. We welcome membership dues of \$35 per family, but we must raise more to keep ahead of the needs. **Having pulled back our fund raising during COVID, we now find it necessary to make a BIG PUSH to fill the coffers, so we're asking our members to dig a little deeper this Spring to help NPI play a little catch-up! Please consider a \$500 Lifetime donation when contributing.** Financial contributions are tax deductible... and Tremendously appreciated!

To become a member and/or to make a contribution, please send a check to:

Northumberland Preservation Inc.
PO Box 65
Wicomico Church, VA 22473

Please include -

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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