



Winter 2016

Happy Holidays and a Healthy 2017 to All:

The year just ending has been an eventful one for NPI. After more than a decade of tireless service, Jane Towner resigned from the NPI Board and the office of President. Now in emeritus status, Jane continues to share valuable thoughts and ideas.

2016 projects laid a strong foundation for an active and exciting year ahead.

- Earlier this year the NPI Board gained access to abutting property through a lease with Shiloh neighbor Margaret Welch who provided the use of this property in memory of her husband Luther. Land to the north and west of the property will be used for parking, a native plant garden, information kiosk, and picnic areas. Thank you again, Margaret.
- The site has been upgraded to support larger gatherings by: Drilling a well that now provides potable water onsite, installing a septic tank and tile field, and building a 12'x18' structure to house a bathroom. The new structure has a separate area to provide limited refreshment storage, storage for paper plates and cleaning supplies, and a place for ladders, garden tools, and paints.

These major projects were made possible through several generous financial donations. Work and material were also provided by local businesses at cost or as gifts. Particularly notable in this regard, listed alphabetically, are Hanley Electrical Service, Lilian Lumber Company, Northern Neck Ace Hardware, Northern Neck Lumber Co., and W. C. Lowery Septic and Concrete Services.

**Looking Ahead to 2017** My 11 years on the NPI Board focused on repair and restoration of the 1906 school building as well as relocation and restoration of the 1884 school. Completion of the 2016 projects permits a shift of focus to expanded community use of the schools and grounds.

- We intend to re-emphasize our outreach activities to youth in the area. We're in early talks with the Northumberland YMCA and the Northern Neck Boys and Girls Club, with a likely focus on summer activities to be held at the Shiloh Schools. Volunteers actors will portray typical activities during a school day between 1884-1929 when the Shiloh Schools operated.
- The revered Ditchley structure and land, sold by the DuPont Foundation to Cathy Calhoun and Paul Grosklags, will be featured as one of our Spring Programs with Cathy presenting its history and current and future plans. More to come.
- Welcome to the Shiloh Schools. A spring event will show off the recent changes at a late afternoon program and picnic featuring a tour of the site, plans for a Native Plant Garden, a chance to meet a newly designated "Belle of the Ball," and country music.

- Shiloh Schools will open for the "Just Gardens Tour" on May 12 and 13. We will offer lunches and describe our Shiloh garden plans. This event will showcase Shiloh as a recreation option for the entire community, including private functions.

**Volunteer member help is needed.**

As President I'm excited about our 2017 plans. But to succeed we need more volunteer help. Can you lend a hand? Docents are needed as are parking attendants, helpers to prepare box lunches for the Just Gardens Tour, garden volunteers, painters, and general carpenters. In this vein, the extraordinary volunteer help of NPI members David and Sheila Todd this summer demands special recognition; Sheila for patiently restoring and repainting several windows in the 1906 School, and David for helping frame the new building and repairing the damaged outdoor school bell.

NPI is now upgrading our outreach activities. NPI member Tom Byrne is creating a web site and evaluating the incorporation our Facebook page within public online sites.

In the spring of 2017 we plan to launch an electronic newsletter, with paper copy available to dues paying members on request. This will save hundreds of dollars in printing and mailing costs. **We can't launch an electronic newsletter without your email address. As you pay your 2017 dues and offer tax-free support, please use the form printed below to include your email address and standard USPS mailing address.**

Our holiday season and 2017 "wish list" includes: oil lamps for both schools, historical American flags and maps showing between 38 and 48 stars, the number of U.S. states when the schools were operating from 1884 to 1929; and a Regulator type school clock for each building. If you might have a donation, please contact Jack Moore to discuss at 804 580 0350 or by e-mail at [hollyhouse.jack@gmail.com](mailto:hollyhouse.jack@gmail.com).

Thanks in advance for your participation.

Jack Moore, NPI President

Make tax-free dues (\$25 per person or \$30 per family at same address) or gift payable to Northumberland Preservation, Inc., or NPI, using the form below, and mail to

**Mail to NPI P.O. Box 65, Wicomico Church, VA. 22579**  
Please remember to include your email address(es)

*Cut here and return*

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 Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed, payable to NPI \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me so I can help as a volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Not at this time