



Unison Preservation Society NEWSLETTER

Working to Protect and Preserve our Historic Countryside

Dara Bailey photo

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FALL

UNISON, VIRGINIA

Unison Heritage Day *Saturday, October 25 • 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m*

Dear Unison Neighbors and Friends:

Please join us for the 11th Unison Heritage Day on Saturday afternoon, October 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Unison Store, newly named the Unison Store Community Center and Village Green. Come celebrate village life, see your neighbors, bring the family and friends, and have some fun!

Listen to the Bluegrass sound of Willow Branch Band, let your kids play on the village green, bid on items in both the silent and live auctions, pet the Piedmont Fox Hounds, eat fresh Chesapeake Bay oysters and enjoy fine Virginia pork barbecue. The silent auction, which will run from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., includes more than 100 gift items and contributions from local stores.

This year's live auction, starting at 3:00 p.m., is one you do not want to miss. Featured are a week-long vacation in a luxury apartment in Buenos Aires during Argentina's peak polo season, a fly-fishing trip on the legendary

Mossy Creek, a chauffeured country drive in a vintage Rolls Royce with a champagne lunch, and a canoe trip and lunch for eight on the Shenandoah River.

There will be lots to do. But, if fancy auctions, music, and food are not enough, we are sure that a relaxing day with your family and neighbors will be! Invite your city friends out for a day of fun in the country.

Tickets are \$30 per person, \$25 in advance, children 12 and under free! Plenty of free parking is available. Advance tickets must be ordered by October 17; mail checks to the Unison Preservation Society, Box 606, Middleburg, Virginia 20118. All proceeds from Heritage Day will go to supporting UPS over the coming year. For additional information, e-mail me at harrybigley@aol.com.

See you at Unison Heritage Day 2014. I guarantee you will have fun!

*Harry Bigley, President,
Unison Preservation Society (UPS)*



Courtesy of Kim Hart

Left: If you want to catch a fish like this, come to Heritage Day. A half-day fly-fishing trip for two people on the blue-ribbon Mossy Creek near Harrisonburg, Virginia will be one of the items in the live auction. You don't have to be an expert to enjoy this adventure. This fish was caught (and released) by a novice who had only gone fly fishing once before. Afterward, he and his father enjoyed a gourmet luncheon served at streamside. **Above photos:** Unison residents greet Piedmont foxhounds (and vice versa); Queenie Kemmerer celebrates with younger neighborhood residents playing the corn hole bean bag toss game; Harry Bigley with Loudoun Supervisor Janet Clark (center) and Janet's mother at 2013 Heritage Day.

Land Conservation Easement Around Unison

By Howard Lewis

The 2013 Summer/Spring UPS Newsletter ran an article about Loudoun County's nearly 51,000 acres of land in conservation easement where the development rights on the land have been permanently given up by the property owners. A little over 45 percent of these acres lie in the southwestern corner of Loudoun, one of the highest concentrations of easements in the country. The article included a map from the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) of all the land in the county under conservation easement. The map was fairly small with Unison a tiny red dot in the middle. Readers asked if we could find a map that zoomed in a little more on the Unison area itself rather than the entire county.

PEC has kindly provided such a map. The areas in green on the map below represent land in conservation easement. Also, marked in light brown are the boundaries of the Unison Battlefield District. Please note that these two different shadings overlap where land is both in conservation easement and the battlefield district, but where there is only light brown shading, the land is not in conservation easement. Clearly, part of the motivation for putting land into conservation easement is to preserve the rural land, as well as way of life, in the area around Unison. But it should also be recognized that there are financial considerations—namely, reduced taxes—behind a property owner's decision to put land

into either conservation easement or into one of Loudoun County's four other land use programs (open space, forestry, agriculture, and horticulture).

The 2014 Spring UPS Newsletter contained an article examining the possible shifting attitudes of some Loudoun County Supervisors toward the last four programs, which allow for lower real estate taxes. In contrast to conservation easement, the Board can change these four programs at any time. The article ended by noting that the only assured way to take your land out of play was to put it into conservation easement. In short, the green areas on the map below are forever protected in more ways than one. ■



Barbara Sharp

One of a Series on Artists in Unison

By Katy Carter

Unison resident, Barbara Sharp, recently suggested that the UPS Newsletter might want to do an occasional article focusing on one of the many talented artists that live in our neighborhood. We thought this was an excellent idea and decided the first article of this series should focus on Barbara herself, who is obviously a talented artist and gardener.

Gardening is an act of love for Barbara Sharp.

Throughout her life, Barbara had an interest in gardening, flowers, and plants but it was not until she moved to Unison a decade ago that her curiosity began to grow into something deeper, greater and, perhaps, life-changing.

Living amongst the vibrant, pure colors and then paying close attention to the way a flower grows, Barbara found not only immense enjoyment in gardening, but also inspiration for creating works of art. "Something in nature, if I can put that on canvas—the growth, the patterns of color, and the light; it's a passion," she said. "A garden is much more than what grows where."

"I do my own seeds because I like certain colors and some can be difficult to find, or are very expensive," she explained. "I like being involved in the entire process, from planting, to staking, weeding, and cutting. Certain blooms are so graceful."

Barbara has attained much peace and happiness putting the varying colors, hues, and shapes she has created in her garden onto her canvases, drawing further inspiration from the works of Édouard Manet, known for his influence during the period which impressionism developed from realism.

Barbara, a former Wall Street broker, first rented in Unison then bought her current house on Unison Road and planted her



Above: "Water Lilies" is a 4' x 6' oil, acrylic, pastel on canvas completed in 2014 that currently resides in Barbara's studio. Barbara Sharp photo.

Left: Barbara in her studio in Unison. Leah Palmer photo.
Below: The garden in August, looking east. Michael Zuckerman photo.

"Something in nature, if I can put that on canvas—the growth, the patterns of color, and the light; it's a passion. A garden is much more than what grows where."



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How to Support the Unison Preservation Society (UPS):

UPS depends upon contributions from people living in our community who want to preserve our historic village and the countryside surrounding it. Since the UPS is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation registered in Virginia, all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions should be made to the Unison Preservation Society and sent to the post office box listed above.



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Ideas for Newsletter Articles:

We are particularly interested in gathering material about Unison for future UPS newsletters. This includes not only stories, photographs, family histories and diaries of long past Unison residents but also what is happening in today's Unison. If you have ideas for newsletter stories, please e-mail us at unisonpreservsoc@unisonva.org.



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garden. Did she agonize over it and lay it out with painting in mind?

"Frankly, it was haphazard," she said of her garden's beginnings. "Blocks of color. For cutting. Then, when I feel inspired, I put them in my studio and capture them. I enjoy painting in my garden but landscape painting is more special. It's the movement. The sky, the clouds. It changes all the time. There is nothing stagnant. It is uniquely Unison. It's a place I live and grow in—and I love."

After decades living and working in major metropolitan areas, the desire to return to a more bucolic and natural setting brought Barbara to Unison, where she built a studio in her home. "I was driven here. I wanted to get back to the 'plein' air and landscape." She continued, "The colors; the variations all throughout the air; the juxtapositions of the colors; the gravel. It's preserved. It's fresh."

"There's nothing for me greater than trying to capture beauty." She continued with a laugh, "I see beauty in the weeds." ■

Katy Carter lives in Unison, is a riding instructor, a tutor with The Learning Curve, and Managing Editor of Covertside: The Magazine of Mounted Foxhunting.) To view more of Barbara's work visit her website: barbarasharp.fineartstudioonline.com.



Above: "Unison Fields," oil on wood. 13" x 14". One of two paintings Barbara is donating to the Heritage Day auction. Barbara Sharp photo.



Above: Untitled garden painting. Oil on canvas. 12" x 12" painted in 2011. Barbara Sharp photo.

Left: An arrangement of flowers from Barbara's Unison garden. Michael Zuckerman photo.

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