



The Board of Directors of
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2018

Annual Membership Meeting
And
Luncheon

November 10, 2018 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.
2018 Annual Report

Officers and Board of Directors

Mark Leach, President

Bob Lookabill, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

Directors

Nate Bond

Gil Churchill

Kim Harmon

Kevin Hunt

Pete Kolakowski

Merry Ellen Korpan

Ruth Pavlik

Dick Rankin

Don Shockey

Beth Stenstrom

Mark Wakeman

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. Annual Membership Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order

Mark Leach, President

Declaration of Quorum

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Welcoming Remarks

Mark Leach, President

Election of Members to the Board of Directors

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

Awards

Remarks

John Hennessy, Chief Historian,
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Announcements

Adjourn

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Lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Door Prizes: 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Guest Speaker – John Hennessy: “Mercy Town”:
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2017**

Board members in attendance: President Mark Leach, Vice President Bob Lookabill, Secretary Milbrey Bartholow, Treasurer Jeff Slunt, and Directors Nate Bond, Beth Stenstrom, Mark Wakeman, Gil Churchill, Pete Kolakowski, Kim Harmon, Kevin Hunt, and Dick Rankin.

President Leach called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Secretary Bartholow announced that the members were notified of the meeting in a timely manner, and that there was sufficient attendance to make a quorum. A total of 78 members were in attendance.

President Leach presented some of the highlights of the year. Membership has been rather stagnant during the year, but recently has had an increase of members. We now have 200 members. The HP program has added 5 new members this year, with a current membership of 62. The ground force under the leadership of Det Wilkens has done an excellent job of maintaining the grounds. NPS has given us 3 new mowing tractors recently. The Ellwood Committee had an intern this summer who rewrote the training manual. We can't wait to see it and use it. The Communications Committee added more events this year and now has a second team of workers for outreach events. Project goals this year include the orchard, locating the slave quarters, installing potable water, and performing archaeology work. Our mission for the next year is to educate and inform. Our motto for the next year is "Bigger and Better".

Next Director Rankin gave a report on the Education Outreach Committee Overview. Their theme is "Looking forward, reaching out". The Ellwood Committee will be separated into three committees in January. The Ellwood Operations Committee will deal with the day to day things at Ellwood – interpreters, etc. The Program & Special Events Committee will deal with Living History events, dinners with speakers, etc. The Education Outreach Committee will deal with homeschoolers, educational institutions (schools), etc.

The next part of the meeting dealt with the election of new board members. The proposed slate is as follows: (* indicted incumbent)

Class of 2018 (1-year term): Merry Ellen Korpan
Ruth Pavlik

Class of 2019 (2-year term): Don Shockey

Class of 2020 (3-year term): Milbrey Bartholow *
Gil Churchill *
Peter Kolakowski *
Mark Leach *
Beth Stenstrom *

Director Rankin motioned that the slate be accepted and member Craig Rains seconded. Member Frank Walker motioned that the election be closed and the Directors be accepted by acclamation, member John Griffiths seconded, and all members approved.

The next item for the meeting was the presentation of three special awards for members for exceptional service and contributions to the organization. John Bell was presented a proclamation read by Director Lookabill and a walking stick presented by Director Churchill for his implementation of the walking tours to Wilderness Tavern site. Bob Epp was presented a proclamation read by Director Bartholow and a walking stick presented by Director Stenstrom for his exceptional work in research and communication. Det Wilkens was presented a proclamation read by Director Wakeman and a walking stick presented by Director Hunt for his leadership of the Ground Force.

The last item was greeting from NPS given by John Storke.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Milbrey A Bartholow
Secretary FoWB Board

2018 Highlights

General Projects:

- Funded an archaeological study of the areas designated for the new water well and septic field.
- Demolished the existing bathroom in preparation for the installation of two handicap accessible bathrooms with running water and septic system
- Extended the split rail fence along the parking area at Ellwood.

Volunteers:

- Volunteers contributed more than 8500 hours this year providing tours of Ellwood Manor, maintaining the Ellwood grounds, various battlefield projects, outreach events, etc.. This is equivalent to roughly four full time NPS employees!

Battlefield Resources:

- Hosted the Annual Spring Park Day: There were 120 volunteers that collectively worked over 460 hours on the Wilderness battlefield.
- Ground Force expanded operations to mowing the Wilderness Tavern Site and the Saunders Field Exhibit Shelter area.
- Sponsored three Eagle Scout Eagle projects

Ellwood:

- 56 trained Interpreters provided exceptional tours of Ellwood Manor and the surrounding grounds. Twelve specially trained interpreters led walking tours along the Wilderness Crossing Trail.
- For the first time, NPS and FoWB conducted a mid-season interpreter training class. Seven additional interpreters joined the active ranks.
- 5374 visitors at Ellwood. Extended the season by a few weekends in November.
- A number of special tours including American battlefield Trust Group, Emerging Civil War Symposium Group, Congressional Aides.

Membership and Heritage Program:

- 205 FoWB members.
- Wilderness Brigade memberships increased to a total of 60.
- Ellwood Legacy memberships remained the same at 10.

Communications:

- Facebook Page 'Likes' now exceed 1200.
- Constant Contact E-blasts promoting our events are sent to more than 1100 email addresses.
- A quarterly newsletter was launched and is sent via Constant Contact to all members

Education Outreach:

- Conducted an educational event for 60 students and faculty at Childhelp East Campus in Lignum, VA.
- Conducted an educational field day at Ellwood and Saunders Field for 120 fourth graders from Locust Grove Elementary School.
- Partnered with three Fredericksburg churches to present the 'Black History Month Untold Stories' event in Fredericksburg.
- Expanded the 'History in Our backyard' newspaper series. Articles, written by FoWB members, now appear regularly in local media, such as the Orange County Review and the Fawn Lake Lifestyle magazine and periodically in other community media.

Programs:

- Added a Memorial Day event which included a color guard, bugler and reading the names of soldiers previously interred at Ellwood.
- Eighty reenactors including a cavalry unit camped at Ellwood for the 154th anniversary of the Wilderness Battle. More than 800 visitors attended the event.
- Sponsored the second annual fundraising canoe trip on the Rapidan River. Tour led by NPS historian Greg Mertz.

Treasurer's 2018 Annual Report

Data as of September 30, 2018

Ellwood Restoration Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$108.59
Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$108.59
Change	\$0.00

FoWB Operating Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$42,185.21
Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$52,333.21
Change	\$10,148.00

Ellwood Cultural Landscape Project Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$10,350.13
Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$10,366.88
Change	\$16.75

FoWB Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$10,906.74
Balance per Books 9/30/2018	\$10,957.23
Change	\$50.49

Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2017	\$63,550.67
Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2018	\$73,765.91

The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield keeps their books on a cash basis.

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) corporation
Tax ID 42-1689437**

Ellwood Committee 2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Don Shockey, Chair

*Members: Bob Lookabill, John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Bob Epp, Ruth Pavlik,
Gil Churchill, Greg Mertz (NPS)*

VISITATION:

Visitations for the 2018 season through September totaled 5,374. Volunteer interpreter hours through September totaled 2,264.

Visitations were down slightly despite an exceptional turn out over the adversary weekend, 5-6 May. Ellwood's visitation season began on March 31st with daily openings during the following week, Easter Week. Weekend openings continued from April 7th through the beginnings of daily operations on June 9th. Weekend and holiday opening resumed on August 20th and was extended this year until November 18th when Ellwood closes for the season.

TRAINING and RECRUITMENT:

Training for new interpreters took place on February 24th with only three new volunteers. Training for veteran interpreters took place on March 10th and 22nd. NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz led the new interpreter training. Veteran training was provided by FoWB personnel with assistance from Greg. HPS Chief Historian John Hennessy and NPS Security Ranger Maureen O'Callahan were guest speakers. President Mark Leach spoke to all interpreters regarding FoWB. Other FoWB veterans provided presentations.

About the middle of the season an additional eight new volunteers were identified. A second new interpreter training session was held on July 14th for the new interpreters. Eleven new interpreters were added this year bring the total to 54.

Battlefield Resources Committee

2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Mark Wakeman, Chair

2018 Volunteer Members:

Det Wilkens Ellwood Site Capt, Gary Mauss and Lee Woolf-Asst Site Capts,

Ann Bayer, Ron Bishop, Gil Churchill, Kenneth Frohnert, Tom Hamilton, Tom Jacobs, Joe Lafleur, Mark Leach, Jim Manchester, Karen O'Brien, Nicholas Palmer, Mike Pierce, John Rourke, Glynn Smith, Tim Taylor, Russell Todd, Joe Warnacut, Bill & Glenna Witter

Battlefield Resource Summary

The FoWB/FSNMP partnership continues to provide new levels of maintenance and preservation to the Wilderness Battlefield. The BRC supported the National Park Service through its weekly Ellwood maintenance support and other service projects. FoWB's agreement with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VDHR) to continue the stewardship of the Wilderness Tract will expire 31 Dec 2018. The primitive scout campsite was utilized in April, and October by BSA Troop 835 and September by Maryland BSA Troop 382.

For 2018, FoWB volunteers provided BSA Eagle project support, Wilderness Battlefield maintenance (The Battlefield Ground Force (BGF) has expanded battlefield support to mowing of the Wilderness Tavern site and the Saunders Field Shelter. The BRC conducted the annual spring Park Day clean-up event on 21 April (weather backup date). The BGF helped clear and mow the future drain field site and helped demolish the old bathroom facilities so a new two-bathroom facility can be added to the maintenance barn.

2018 BSA Eagle Projects

- Michael Quinones, BSA Troop 177, completed Eagle project to build six new park benches for FoWB and NPS. They will be delivered in December to the Brooder Barn. His project consisted of 22 people and 239 total hours.
- Coordinated Eagle project for Hunter Evans, BSA Troop 847 with NPS. His scout project falls under NPS purview and was handed over to John Storke and Megan McFadden.
- Coordinated Eagle project for Gabriel Hupp, BSA Troop 171. Gabriel completed his CVBT project near the Chancellorsville Flank Attack site on Plank Rd.
- Craig Johnson led a group of scouts in cleaning up Chewing cemetery. He is planning an Eagle project to put a fence around the area.

Battlefield Ground Force (BGF)

The BGF continued to provide outstanding weekly upkeep to the Ellwood grounds. Mowing and grounds upkeep started in April and has not slowed down due to the rain and warm weather to date. Many of the other tasks completed by the BGF are listed

below. The National Park Service Maintenance Department provided the BGF with a third new zero turn mower to the inventory. This has allowed the BGF to be much more efficient and therefore expand its mowing coverage again this year. Last year, in addition to the Ellwood property, the BGF started mowing the Wilderness Tavern site, in 2018, the Saunders Field Shelter area was added. Additional tasks accomplished in 2018 include:

- Cleared the underbrush at the Wilderness Tavern site.
- Cleared more undergrowth to widen access on eastern side of Wilderness Crossing.
- GF had a chainsaw safety class scheduled with NPS in February.
- Big cedar tree at corner of grove taken down and transported to the burn pile.
- Cut down and trimmed the dead, leaning cedars in grove.
- Picked up the branches previously cut or broken off and taken to the burn pile.
- Cut down large dead tree on driveway.
- Started laying extension of parking fence to separate the septic field from the parking area.
- Higgerson Farm driveway: Cleared low growth, saplings and intruding branches to reestablish the driveway. Cut up and stacked six large trees that toppled across the drive for NPS chipping.
- In preparation for a ground penetration radar survey for location of the outbuildings and slave cabins, GF members helped NPS hired archeologists with grid flagging in March. The survey has been completed.
- Rebuilt the east side of Wilderness bridge access and placed more flow deflectors on the trail from the ice house to stream after the heavy rain wash out.
- Wilderness Crossing Trail: Cleared a fallen tree on Parker Store Road and a large branch by the bridge, added more mulch to the east side bridge access, and cleared more of the low growth on the sides of the trail.
- Mowed around house and old garage area for Easter week-end events
- On 4 and 5 April, executed first ground mowing of the 2018 season including tavern site and Chewing Farm panels.
- NPS requested GF help to clear (10 yard) the remaining roadside deadfall on Hill-Ewell.
- At Ellwood, BGF cleared away more of the storm damage, so grounds are "back to normal." Low hanging "head bangers" were limbed.
- Mowing is going on regularly. BGF keeps the septic field reasonably cleared ...it is mowed tall about once a month.
- Extended the parking fence (NPS provided the rails) so that the septic area is blocked off from the parking area. GF also expanded the parking area by the cedar grove.
- During August, the old fence between parking and the manor was removed. A single sign post (temporarily until NPS creates the new signage area) is installed to mount the various signs presently on the fence.
- The GF were provided new FoWB work shirts in August.
- The big project at Ellwood of rearranging things in the barn in preparation for the "deconstruction" of the current toilet facility so a new dual facility with indoor water from the new well can be built was started in early September.
- Three downed pines on Hill-Ewell in mid-September were removed.
- In early Oct, the ice house area was weed-whacked.
- The GF 'deconstructed' the old bathroom facility. NPS used the framing to partially frame the new facility.
- NPS provided a dumpster for the deconstruction and the GF took advantage of it to clear out much old paint, unused stuff, and the former toilet system. Tom Jacobs was the

group's primary sawyer during this period, cutting up downed trees at Ellwood and on Hill-Ewell, and limbing low branches. He was assisted by members of the BGF.

- Gil Churchill and Mark Leach replaced 4 boards on the Wilderness Crossing bridge. The boards had been broken by a large dead branch that fell on the bridge.
- Gary Mauss cleaned up the fallen wood at the Wilderness Shelter.

Park Service Work

- Park Service repaired handicap entrance door blown open by heavy winds.
- NPS has prepared a proposal for installing well, septic field and bathrooms.
- NPS cleared away the 3 large piles of cuttings from the Tavern site.
- NPS bush-hogged alongside the Parker Store Road for the Wilderness Walk, conducted on March 31st,
- NPS did more house repair and had the sprinkler system serviced.
- NPS paid contractors cleared most of the Hill-Ewell debris from multiple past storms.
- NPS provided the chipper on Park Day and all trees and brush cut previously were chipped.
- NPS helped in the 'deconstruction' of the old bathroom facilities and roughed in the two bathrooms, and utilities closets and covered with exterior plywood in the barn.
- NPS issued a contract for \$212,000 for the new well, septic field, roughed in plumbing, and removal of the old well.
- NPS provided the deck boards for repairing the bridge.
- NPS power washed the bridge and placed chicken wire on the sloping part of the bridge to eliminated the slipping hazard caused by a slimy build up.
- NPS had a contractor cut down 2 dead trees at the bridge site. One in particular was a possible threat to falling on the bridge.
- NPS re-graveled the driveway in Sept.

Membership/Heritage Committee 2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Milbrey Bartholow, Chair

Members: Robert Bartholow, Robert Epp, Beth Stenstrom, Diane Smith, Merry Ellen Korpan

We have had another busy year. We work closely with the Communications Committee, which helps keep us busy. We set up tables at both on-site – Ellwood – and off-site events. At these events we set up tables, hand out literature, and talk about what FoWB is and does. Through these events we have gained several new members, several new volunteers, several HP members, and increased visitation at Ellwood. We also attend various Orange Chamber of Commerce events to mingle and let CoC members know what we are doing.

On-site events with Information Booths have included: Living History October 21, Battle of Wilderness Observance and Living History May 5-6, Mother's Day Observance and readings May 13, Lafayette Day June 2, Medical Living History June 16-17, Taming of the Wilderness Sept 30.

Other on-site events have included: Victorian Christmas December 16-17, FoWB Interpreter training February 24 and March 10 & 22, Park Clean-up Day April 21, a program for 130 Locust Grove Elementary School May 2.

Off-site events with Information Booths have included: Spotsylvania Fair June 30, LOW 4th of July Festival July 7, Orange County Teachers' In-Service Day August 21, Orange Street Festival September 9.

Other off-site events have included: Presentation at ChildHelp January 6, Black History month event in Fredericksburg February 9, Wake-up Locust Grove events, October 26, March 13, June 12, September 11, FoWB Dinner June, Friends of Chatham meetings June 8, August, September 6, talks at James Madison Museum January 21, FoWB Dinner June 15, Front Porch Fest in Fredericksburg August 18.

We have a supportive notification system – email, letter, personal contact - and will continue to cultivate the support we receive from our members. Without you members, we could not exist. We are grateful for our members, especially those of you who renew your membership year after year and who provide us with funding and man-power for our many activities through your dues and donations. We did change our membership fee structure last year, and no one seemed to mind. We were able to give our many volunteers a well appreciated thank-you picnic again this year.

Current membership is about the same as last year at this time. We have added 43 new members, while we have lost 38. members. We have added 8 new members to the Heritage Program, now giving us 60 in the Wilderness Brigade and 10 in the Ellwood Legacy. We had a reception for HP members on November 10, 2017, and 14 members attended along with some spouses and board members.

Governance Committee

2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

Members: Nate Bond, Bob Lookabill, Don Shockey, Beth Stenstrom, Craig Raines

The Committee had a relatively quiet year. The routine work consisted of answering questions about and interpretation of the bylaws. There were no bylaws amendments proposed in the past year.

One significant accomplishment by the Committee was publication of the Board of Director's handbook. This is a loose-leaf book containing FoWB's bylaws, policies and procedures, contact information and agreements. This handbook is intended to be updated each year, at a minimum, and as needed as any changes occur in the contents.

By designation of the FoWB President, the Governance Committee was designated the Nominating Committee. The Committee conducted the process for identifying candidates to be elected to the Board by the membership at the annual meeting. This year, the annual meeting will be presented with a slate of five nominees for the Class of 2021. This will continue the full Board consisting of 15 members.

Communications Committee

2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

Members: Milbrey Bartholow, Suzanne Baxter, Bob Epp, Kim Harmon, Merry Ellen Korpan, Ruth Pavlik, JoAnne Pino, Dick Rankin, Diane Smith, Beth Stenstrom

2017 Activities:

Website, Constant Contact (E-blasts), and Social Media

The FoWB Facebook page has accumulated over 1206 “likes”, which is up 314 likes since last year. We employ an “organic” approach to increasing views of the site. Rather than pay Facebook to promote our site, we rely on personal networking with visitors and groups such as the Orange and Spotsylvania tourism and Chamber of Commerce groups. A number of other Civil War interest related Facebook groups have started promoting our activities, as well, which leads to an even broader viewer audience.

Constant Contact continues to be FoWB’s primary electronic outreach tool. Attractively formatted general interest E-blasts are sent to over 1105 recipients who have signed up for the electronic mailing list. This is up 85 contacts since last year. The application is also used for targeted mailings to local residents and FoWB members. We added a quarterly newsletter this year, which also goes out via Constant Contact.

The FoWB website is kept up to date and provides information to prospective visitors to Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield as well as to our volunteers and members. It is also useful to educators who wish to learn more about Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield.

This committee works closely with the NPS to send Press Releases to numerous media contacts to promote our Living History Events at Ellwood Manor. Coverage has been excellent in the Orange Review and the Freelance Star for events, and the other media contacts have been great about posting our upcoming events in their papers.

Publications:

Wilderness Battlefield/Ellwood Rack Cards are displayed at various visitor centers, hotels, and other tourism sites in the area.

FoWB tri fold brochures are available at Ellwood Manor and are also distributed to interested visitors at various outreach venues, such as the Orange Street Festival. These brochures feature information on the organization, volunteer opportunities, and membership information. Separate tri fold brochures on the Heritage Program are also available at Ellwood Manor and distributed to interested visitors at various outreach venues.

Outreach and Promotion:

The Communications Committee is a highly dedicated and energetic group of volunteers who spend countless hours preparing for and conducting a wide range of public outreach booths at venues outside of Ellwood Manor, as well as manning a Welcome booth at Living History events at Ellwood Manor. We have teamed up with the Membership/Heritage Committee, who assist us at all of the outreach events. Special Thanks go to Milbrey Bartholow, Membership/Heritage Committee Chair, and Bob Epp, Membership/Heritage Committee member, for countless hours visiting with people at our various venues, assisting them in finding ancestors who may have fought in the Battle of the Wilderness or who may have been at Ellwood for various reasons.

In 2018, our team set up booths and visited with thousands of people at the July 4th Celebration at Lake of the Woods, the Orange Street Festival, and the Spotsylvania Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary Craft Fair. We also were welcomed to the Orange County School System Teacher Convocation, and visited with numerous interested and excited teachers and school personnel.

Our team also manned Information and Heritage Booths at Ellwood Manor for the numerous Living History Events held onsite at Ellwood Manor.

Promotional handouts and giveaway items were distributed at all events.

2019 Goals:

Website, E-Blasts, and Social Media:

Continue to improve the appeal and information on the website.

Continue to increase sign-ups for the E-Blasts.

Continue to promote activities on the Facebook site.

Publications:

Continue to distribute rack cards in the Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Orange areas.

Outreach:

Continue to watch for new public outreach opportunities for the FoWB Information Booth in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and other areas surrounding the Wilderness Battlefield.

Continue to work with other committees to assist them with membership drives, Living History events, volunteer recruitment, Park clean up, and educational opportunities.

Education Outreach Committee

2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Dick Rankin, Chair

Members: Suzanne Baxter, John Bell, Joe Bianchini, Bob Epp, Kim Harmon, Bill Huntington, Pete Kolakowski, Merry Ellen Korpan, Bob Lookabill, Mike Mikolosko, Beth Stenstrom, Barry Thompson, and NPS Historian Peter Maugle

- **Getting Organized:** The Education Outreach Committee came into being at the start of this year as a result of a bylaw change based on the analysis of the Education and Outreach ad hoc Committee, which determined that Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) has a role to play educating and informing the local populace, particularly students, about the significance of the Wilderness and the area both during the Civil War and throughout American history. The Committee is responsible for enhancing FoWB's visibility within the local community on a year-round basis. Once fully established the team members will have assigned responsibilities for developing relationships with the regional school and other organizations.
- **Childhelp Event:** The committee's initial effort was to conduct a presentation to the young residents at Childhelp East campus in Lignum, VA. Presentations included Life of the Civil War Soldier, 19th Century Life, and 19th Century Dance. The program was well received by over 60 youth and adults.
- **Black History Month Untold Stories:** In February FoWB, under the leadership of Kim Harmon and Barry Thompson, collaborated with 3 downtown Fredericksburg churches and other groups to present 3 Civil War-related vignettes. Over 130 attendees participated in the walk and short stories at each of the 3 churches. Each organizing organization received about \$100 from donations at the door. We are planning a 2nd Untold Stories evening for this coming Black History Month adding a 4th vignette and engaging a 4th church
- **Wilderness Field Day:** On May 2, with much prior coordination the committee hosted, on behalf of FoWB, over 120 Locust Grove Elementary School 4th grade students at Ellwood and the NPS Shelter. During this initial Wilderness Field Day FoWB volunteers and NPS Historian Pete Maugle shared with the students their perspectives on Life of Civil War Soldiers, Plantation Life, Stonewall Jackson, and the significance of the Wilderness Battle. The students were provided Junior Ranger booklets in advance and given the opportunity to complete the booklets during and after their visit. Led by Historian Maugle, FoWB volunteers in period attire attended a 4th grade assembly in June and presented 75 Junior Ranger certificates and patches to students who completed the booklet.
- **History in Our Backyard (HIOB):** Continuing a program started by the ad hoc committee, Mike Mikolosko has assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief for this project, which is designed to share the history of the Wilderness with the people who live in and around the area. Mike edits short articles written by FoWB members about aspects about the Wilderness that is of interest to the authors. HIOB articles now

appear regularly in local media, such as the Orange County Review and the Fawn Lake Lifestyle magazine and periodically in other community media.

- **Jackson Wounding Dinner Presentation:** Our committee and the new Special Programs Committee shared responsibility for coordinating a dinner and presentation by Harry Sonntag, AKA Dr. Hunter McGuire, on Jackson's wounding, his arm, his death, and its impact on the Confederate Army. This event, sold out with 81 attendees at General's Quarters Restaurant, kicked off the Special Programs Medical Weekend at Ellwood in mid-June.

Programs Committee

2018 Annual Report

Submitted by Bob Lookabill, Chair

*Members: John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Greg Mertz (NPS), Bob Epp,
Ruth Pavlik, Gil Churchill*

Attendance at the events was very strong with the exception of Taming. In fact, the Anniversary weekend at Ellwood with a fantastic attendance approaching 1,300 visitors.

New and different:

We added a Memorial Day program supported by NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz who gave a moving talk on those men who lost their lives to the fires at the Battle of the Wilderness. We were supported by the Lake of the Woods Veterans Club who provided the flag team. We hosted 120 fourth graders from Orange County at Ellwood provided four different learning sessions. We had a professional Lafayette this year who was tremendous. We supported a second annual canoe trip as a fund raiser. Again, supported by Greg Mertz it was a tremendous success.

FoWB event calendar for 2018:

April 26 - Hosted Spotsylvania County elementary school group

May 5/6 - 154th Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Wilderness

May 13 - Mother's Day celebration

May 26 - Memorial Day event

June 2 - Commemoration of Lafayette encampment at Ellwood Manor

June 16 - Civil War Medical event

Aug 11 - Canoe trip

Sept. 30 - Taming of the Wilderness with house and grounds presentation by Dale Brown

Oct. 21 - Living History event - Civil War soldiers discuss uniforms, weapons, camp-life, etc.

Dec. 16/17 - Victorian Christmas at Ellwood

Special Tours:

Civil War Trust

Army of the Roanoke

Emerging Civil War

NPS Manassas Battlefield Volunteers

Highlights in 2018:

Presentations given by FoWB volunteers at special events and local schools

Attendance by various interpreters at Certified Tourism Ambassador events

Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors compare and contrast life in the army plus Civil War talk and book signing by Don Pfanz.

Supported picnic for interpreters

Civil War soldier's letter reading event hosted by costumed re-enactors on Mother's Day

Trained walking tour Interpreters led 16 walks for more than 100 visitors on the Wilderness Walking Trail and Ellwood grounds.

Medical event dedicated totally to Ellwood as a hospital with medical re-enactors

Fund raising canoe trip from Germanna Ford to Ely's Ford

Victorian Christmas again held over two days, one with Santa and one without.

Nominations for Board of Directors

** Denotes Incumbent Member Nominated for Re-Election

Suzanne Baxter (Three Year Term 2021)

Suzanne M. Baxter and her husband, Mark, retired to Lake of the Woods (LOW) in 2016. They looked for a community close to children, grandchildren, a lake and a golf course with a community structure to maintain. LOW filled the bill.

Suzanne was born and grew up in Niagara Falls, New York. She and Mark met in high school. They married after college and have two children and five grandchildren. Suzanne and Mark have only lived in Niagara Falls and Fairfax before coming to LOW.

Suzanne is a graduate of SUNY at Geneseo, with a BS in Library Science and MS from Niagara University in Educational Administration. She has taken other course work through Marymount University and Shenandoah University.

Suzanne's career included 26 years in Catholic education as a high school librarian and retired as head librarian. In addition, she worked many years in private industry as a technical librarian. Also, she has previous volunteer work with the Humane Society of Fairfax, Girl Scouts adult education, PTA president and many neighborhood community positions.

Suzanne joined FoWB as an interpreter, is a member of several committees and continues to volunteer with FoWB's many events and activities.

Robert Epp (Three Year Term 2021)

Robert "Bob" Epp was born in Western Wisconsin. After matriculating at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, he and his new bride (Dian) moved to Northern Virginia in 1965. Bob joined the Department of Defense and became a Regional Analyst. Along the way to almost 40 years of public service employment, Bob moved his young family to Heidelberg, Germany for three years. In his free time in Germany Bob researched some of his German roots which began a lifetime journey with genealogy.

In 2005, Bob retired from the Department of Defense, then worked as a contractor for another four more years. In 2009, he and Dian sold their Annandale home and moved to the Wilderness where they had built a retirement home. Not satisfied to sit on his hands, Bob discovered the FoWB and trained as an interpreter the following year. Since then, he has been active in many of the FoWB committees and activities. Also, Bob has immersed himself into many other of the area's organizations, notably the Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society. Bob has been exploring and expects to continue researching the families of Ellwood and the Wilderness.

**** Merry Ellen Korpan (Three Year Term 2021)**

Merry Ellen was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey and attended college in Ohio. She graduated from the University of Toledo with a BS and MA in Political Science.

Merry Ellen married her husband Dean in 1984 and they raised two children – Colin and Kiren. They moved to Charleston, South Carolina from Leesburg, Virginia in 1990 and in 1999 they decided to return to Virginia, and settled again in Leesburg, Virginia.

Merry Ellen and Dean enjoyed attending Civil War reenactments and visiting historic sites and battlefields, and Merry Ellen developed a keen appreciation for the need to preserve these buildings and places.

Merry Ellen moved to Lake of the Woods in June 2016. Merry Ellen has been an interpreter for two years and has grown to love Ellwood and its history.

She retired in January 2017. During her career, she was a paralegal; supported an economic development group; and then went on to work for basically one IT company that morphed numerous times through mergers, acquisitions and names changes. During that time, she was a marketing coordinator, business analyst, training manager, proposal coordinator and proposal manager and project manager supporting many Federal and State government agencies.

She has six grandchildren who live in Kearneysville, West Virginia and Locust Grove, Virginia.

In addition to her interpreter duties at Ellwood, she enjoys Zumba, yoga, reading, travel – especially to the Outer Banks – and pickleball. Retirement has offered Merry Ellen the opportunity to experiment with different activities and she is looking forward to new adventures.

**** Ruth Pavlik (Three Year Term 2021)**

A native of suburban Pittsburgh, PA, Ruth graduated from Clarion (PA) State University with a BS in Elementary Education. However, the majority of her professional life was spent in the field of volunteer administration. For the 14 years prior to her 2015 retirement, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice of the Rapidan (now Hospice of the Piedmont) in Culpeper.

Ruth has made Virginia her home for almost all of her adult life--beginning in Arlington, with two stops in Fairfax County, then Warrenton, and finally moving into her current home in Lake of the Woods in 2005.

When planning her life after retirement, FoWB was at the top of her list of prospective volunteer opportunities. She has served as an interpreter and a member of the Communications and Elwood Committees. At this year's Taming of the Wilderness she tried her hand as a tavern wench. Ruth also volunteers at the Orange County Visitors Center and does clerical work for LOWLINC, a senior citizen assistance group. In addition to volunteering, she is an avid sports fan, especially football and baseball, loves to read, do needlework, and travel. Ruth is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of four.

**** Jeff Slunt (Three Year Term 2021)**

Treasurer

Jeff holds a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of Virginia. He works from home for PRA International on a large colorectal cancer clinical trial. His wife is professor at the Chemistry department at the University of Mary Washington and they have two children, Todd and Madeline.

Jeff enjoys either coaching or watching his children play soccer most weekends. He volunteers for the Park Service at Chatham one day a month and takes advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the American Civil War.

Continuing Board Members

Milbrey Bartholow (2020)

Secretary; Membership/HP Committee Chair

Milbrey was born and raised in Wilson, NC. She graduated from High Point University (College) with a BA in Math. She taught high school Math in Florida and North Carolina, but the Federal Government offered her more money, so she began working at the Naval Weapons Laboratory (later Naval Surface Warfare Center) in Dahlgren in 1966 and continued until 1994 when the Government offered her an early out.

She has always loved history, especially the Civil War era. She remembers studying the Civil War in 7th grade History and acing the first three tests on the unit. Her teacher told her she studied too hard, to which she replied "You don't have to study hard if you love the subject". She also remembers going to visit cousins in a nearby town and seeing a sign stating that Sherman went through burning and pillaging everything.

She is the great granddaughter of Pvt James Benjamin Braswell, Co F 30th Inf 2nd Corps CSA who fought under Jackson and Ewell throughout the 4 years. As a result, she is also a member of the Wilderness Brigade. She has a least 10 other ancestors who fought in the Civil War, with 3 of them being at the Wilderness. Two others died at Chancellorsville.

She has been married to Robert Bartholow for over 45 years. They have a son Eric (and Amey) who has a son Reed, and a daughter Kristen (and Dave). They all live in Richmond.

Milbrey has spent most of her adult life living and working in the Fredericksburg area - King George County, Ferry Farm subdivision in Stafford, and now at LOW in Orange County. She and Robert ran away from home and went to Florida for 11 years.

After retiring from NSWC, she worked for 6 years as a tavern wench at the Rising Sun Tavern. She went into retirement when she went to Florida, but volunteered at various places while there. They moved back to VA in 2012, and she immediately became active with FoWB and Ellwood. She is a Historical House Guide and a FoWB board member. She portrays a Tavern Wench for the Taming of the Wilderness events. She has also dressed in Civil War era attire for events such as Mother's Day readings. She portrays Mrs. Sant at Victorian Christmas.

She is a member of the DAR, UDC, and Friends of Chatham. She also plays handbells at LOW Church. Other interests include computers, genealogy, antiques, and sewing.

Gil Churchill (2020)

Gil was born near Chicago, IL and grew up in Minnesota. He met his wife, Lucy, at the University of Minnesota where he earned BS and MS degrees in Forest Management.

His civilian career was with the U.S. Forest Service. Gil served on National Forests in Idaho, Washington, Montana, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and West Virginia. His last assignments were in the Regional Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he served as Director of Planning, Budget Officer, and Capital Resources Team Leader.

Gil had a military career at the same time. After serving active duty with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1964 and 1965, he continued to serve that Agency as a Reserve Officer, finally retiring after 28 years. This might account for his interest in military history, except for the fact that he had been an avid reader of Civil War history while still in High School.

Gil and Lucy moved to Lake of the Woods in 2008 to be near family. At Lake of the Woods, Gil has been President of a Square Dance Club, Chair of the Maintenance and Ecology Committee and leader of the AARP Election Day Chicken BBQ. He participates with the Veteran's Club, the Woodworker's Club, and the network of bridge players. At FOWB he is active as a House and Trail guide as well as serving with the Grounds Force on Thursday mornings.

Kim Harmon (2019)

Kim was born in Taylor, Texas but grew up in San Marcos, Texas. She holds an Animal Science (Production) degree from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Kim has had a diverse career to say the least from being a hog farmer in Plains, Kansas for DeKalb Swine Breeders foundation farms followed by being a Meat Grader for USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) in Joslin, Illinois. Another change in careers this time as a Livestock and Grain Market News Reporter however, still with USDA AMS in Des Moines, Iowa. She would then be transferred to headquarters in Washington D.C for the first time from 1995 to 2000. Two more state moves [Amarillo, Texas and Springfield, Illinois] will occur before Kim lands back in Virginia. In 2012 she returned to USDA headquarters. In 2015 she switched careers from market news reporter to grants management specialist all still with USDA- AMS.

Currently Kim oversees 61 grants in 13 states for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotional Program (FMLFPP) of Transportation & Market (TM) Division of AMS.

She first joined FoWB in 2014 and has served as an Ellwood interpreter/Historic House Guide since then until the present time. Current activities include serving as a member of both the Ellwood Committee and Communications Committee.

Besides a great love of history and genealogy Kim enjoys NASCAR, running half marathons, antiquing, gardening, sports and road trips[down the road or abroad]. The joke back in college was that Kim would live in all 50 states. She has not quite completed that task but made an attempt.

Kevin Hunt (2019)

Kevin was born in Worcester, MA, where he lived until moving to Northborough, MA. He graduated from UMass-Dartmouth (then known as Southeastern Massachusetts University) with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and from George Washington University with a Masters in Engineering Administration. He moved to Virginia in 1979 and worked at the US Army's Night Vision Laboratory as a systems engineer until he retired in 2013.

Since joining FoWB in 2014, he has volunteered as an interpreter at Ellwood and served on the Ellwood committee in 2016. He has always been interested in history, and was excited to move to Spotsylvania, among the four battlefields of the FSNMP. His interest in Civil War history peaked when he had the opportunity to participate in several staff rides lead by renowned Penn State history professor, including tours of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Antietam.

In addition to volunteering at Ellwood, he recently was the assistant director then director of the Harley Owners Group of Orange. Kevin has been married to his wife Cindy for 36 years and has two grown daughters, Stacy and Kelly. He lives in Spotsylvania County just south of Chancellorsville.

Peter Kolakowski (2020)

Governance Committee Chair

Peter earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin and a Master's of Public Administration from American University, Washington, D.C.

He has been a resident of the Fredericksburg area since 1972. Over his 40 year public service career, Peter served in the U.S. Army for five years and has been employed in executive management positions in Virginia local government in Fredericksburg as City Manager, state government working for VDOT as Assistant Commissioner and at the federal government level for the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren as a department head.

He has been active supporter of preservation and history projects throughout his career.

Mark Leach (2020)

President

Mark was born in Hudson, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

A 34 year career with ExxonMobil placed Mark in Milwaukee, WI, St. Louis, MO and Fairfax, VA. His most recent positions were in IT project management and systems training. Mark retired in April 2012.

Mark has been an Ellwood Interpreter and member of the Ground Force since joining FoWB in 2012. He has been a Director since 2013 and served as Vice President and Communications Committee Chair. Mark was elected FoWB President in 2015.

Mark also serves on the Orange County Tourism Advisory Committee reporting to the County Board of Supervisors and is an active volunteer at the Orange County Visitor Center and with the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

Bob Lookabill (2019)

Vice President; Ellwood Committee Chair

Bob was born in West Virginia. He holds a Master's Degree in history from Marshall University and in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College at Newport. After teaching history and coaching baseball and football at the high school level for ten years Bob took a position with the Defense Intelligence Agency. After his retirement from DIA, worked for several defense contractors, both overseas and in the States. He is now fully retired. He is also a retired Navy Reserve Captain.

He has been an interpreter at Ellwood for five years and currently serves as Ellwood Committee chair and closer. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable and dabbles in genealogy.

Bob and Judy reside in Spotsylvania near the Wilderness Battlefield. They have two grown sons and three grandsons. He is secretary of the North American Torquay Pottery Society, enjoys travel, golf, the Redskins and Nationals.

Richard (Dick) Rankin (2019)

Education Outreach Committee Chair

Dick was born in Rochester, New York, and holds degrees from the University of Rochester (American History) and the University of Notre Dame (Government). He served in the US Air Force for over 26 years, and then managed and directed, large organizations and consulted for private sector national security companies engaged in counter-terrorism programs.

Dick, and his wife Carol, moved to Fawn Lake from Northern Virginia in 2007 eager to enjoy retirement and expecting to take advantage of his surroundings to soak in the history of the area, particularly as it related to the Civil War, which has always been an interest of his. In Northern Virginia Dick served as President of his Homeowners Association, President of the Northern Virginia Swim League, and General Chairman of the year-round swimming organization in

Metropolitan Washington. Since becoming a Spotsy resident, Dick has served as an Elder at The Lake of the Woods Church, has been a member of the FOWB and interpreter at Ellwood since 2011. For the past several years he has been on the FoWB Communications Committee, working the Welcome Tent at various Ellwood Living History activities and representing FoWB at events in Gettysburg, Orange, Richmond, and Gordonsville. He was elected to the FoWB Board in 2015 and presently serves as chairman of the Education Outreach committee, which is charged with expanding FoWB's educational and informational activities.

Dick and Carol have 3 married children and 8 grandchildren scattered around Virginia and North Carolina. Together they enjoy traveling, golfing, bridge, various other social activities and being with family. Recent trips have led them to the Baltic and St Petersburg, Scotland, Southern France, and South Africa.

Don Shockey (2019)

Elwood Committee Chair

Don was born and grew up in Lafayette, Indiana. At the direction of POTUS he joined the US Army serving in the areas of communications and intelligence. In addition to a number of assignments in the US he had overseas assignments to Korea, Germany, and Italy. He retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer.

After retirement he continued to serve the US Army as an Army Civilian with the Communications - Electronics Command serving as a branch chief in the Projects Division. In that capacity he managed numerous and varied projects including installing SIPRNet for V Corps in Europe, providing contractors to support the war in Iraq, supporting counter-drug efforts in Central and South America, and supporting Signal Intelligence operations in Korea. Don retired a second time in early 2016.

Don has had a lifelong interest in history of any kind but especially Civil War and family history. He has five great grandfathers who served in the Civil War. One of those ancestors was in the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves and served with the 5th Corps at the Battle of Wilderness. Don has been an Ellwood interpreter for two years.

Don and his wife Lou are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 and looking forward to many more years together. Don and Lou have three children and one grandchild. Don holds a BS in Business Management and a MS in Business Administration and is DA Certified Level III in Acquisition Logistics.

Beth Stenstrom (2020)

Communications Committee Chair

Beth grew up jumping in and out of boats off the Texas coast and we can't keep her away from the water still. She is a full-blooded Texas Aggie, earning her B.S. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, and she received her M.Ed. from the University of Missouri in St. Louis in Psychological Counseling.

She is a retired teacher who taught blind and visually impaired students at the Missouri School

for the Blind for many years, and finished her career teaching Texas History to middle school students in New Braunfels, Texas. She and her husband, Jim, are avocational archeologists, and have had quite a lot of experience with the Texas Archeology Society, the South Texas Archeology Association, and the Hill Country Archeology Association.

As are many of our interpreters in FoWB, Beth is a Certified Tourism Ambassador with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground program. She is an officer in the Washington-Lewis DAR chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She and her husband, Jim, are also charter members of the Friends of Chatham, as well as members of a papal order, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which mission is to protect and maintain Holy sites in the Holy Land.

When Beth isn't running back and forth to the OBX, manning Information tables for FoWB at various venues, or working on Communications projects, you can usually find her, along with her cohorts in FoWB, running all over Virginia hunting for "treasures" in antique malls!

Beth and Jim have a son and a daughter, three granddaughters, and one grandson. Hobbies include hiking, genealogy, photography, reading, and history!

Retiring Board Members

Nate Bond

Nate was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and holds undergraduate degrees from Purdue and Indiana Universities. He came to Virginia in 1967 to work at the then Naval Weapons Laboratory in Dahlgren, transferred to the Naval Air Systems Command in 1981 and later retired after more than thirty-seven years of service.

He first joined FoWB in 2008 and has served as an Ellwood interpreter/Historic House Guide since then until the present time. His past activities have included chairman of the Membership Committee and Ellwood interpreter scheduler and he currently serves as one of the closers for Ellwood. Nate actively participates in various FoWB activities.

Besides a great love of history, old houses, water-powered grist mills among other interests, Nate's great passion is interaction with manatees or sea cows. He has spent hundreds of hours in the water with these strange creatures, mostly at Crystal River/Kings Bay, Florida, some eighty miles north of Tampa. Winter temperatures drive the usually solitary manatees to the seventy-two-degree temperature of the bay in large numbers enabling interaction with swimmers and snorkelers.

Mark Wakeman

Battlefield Resources Committee Chair

Mark was born in Topeka, Kansas. His father was career Air Force during Mark's formative years. During that time he lived in multiple locations around the world. After college and a BA in History from the University of Florida he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served over 26 years in the Marine Corps, and retired in Spotsylvania County in 2009. Virginia is now home. He is currently on the faculty at Quantico as a Marine Corps College of Continuing Education Course Director.

He is married to Darcey and has two sons Travis and Calvin. Mark and Travis were Ellwood interpreters in 2008 & 2009. Mark has also been the Ellwood volunteer interpreter scheduler. After Travis left for college in 2010 Mark and Calvin focused on battlefield maintenance and preservation until Calvin left for college in 2013. As the BRC chair, Mark also helps coordinate Eagle preservation and enhancement projects on the Wilderness and other FSNMP battlefields and has helped coordinate 10 Eagle projects for the FSNMP.

Contacts

Contact Battlefield Resources Committee at Battlefield@FoWB.org:

- FoWB Ground Force
- Special Projects on the battlefield
- Regular Trash pickup duty
- Annual Park Day

Contact Ellwood Committee at Ellwood@FoWB.org:

- Ellwood Interpreters
- Walking Tours
- Special Tours of Ellwood

Contact Communications Committee at Communications@FoWB.org:

- Community Outreach Events
- Website Support
- Newsletter and Other Publications

Contact Membership/Heritage Program Committee at Membership@FoWB.org:

- Heritage Program including Research
- Membership Drives

You may also direct your questions, compliments and concerns to Mark Leach, President, at maleach103@verizon.net

**Thank You
For Supporting FoWB !!**