

The President  
and  
Board of Directors  
of  
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield  
Host the 2014  
"Celebrate FoWB: Members and  
Volunteers"

*Annual Membership Meeting and  
Awards Ceremony*

11am

November 8, 2014

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church  
Spotsylvania, Virginia

The 150th Anniversary of  
The Battle of the Wilderness  
1864-2014

# **Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.**

2014 Annual Report

## **Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

Zann Nelson, President

Mark Leach, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Dorothy Mosso, Secretary

### **Members**

Nate Bond

Howard Lambert

Bob Lookabill

Gary Mauss

Dwight Mottet

Dan Nickelson

Robin Nimmo

George Smith

Mark Wakeman

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, nc.  
Annual Membership Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order  
Zann Nelson, President

Declaration of Quorum  
Howard Lambert, Secretary

Welcome  
Zann Nelson, President

Election of Members to the Board of Directors  
Dan Nickelson, Chair, Nominating Committee

Remarks  
Zann Nelson, President  
Lucy Lawliss, Superintendent, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Announcements

Adjourn

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11:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Lunch and Drawings

Entertainment

Recognitions and Awards

Introduction of Special Guest: Lucy Lawliss, Superintendent

Guest Speaker: Christine Arato, NPS Chief Historian, Northeast Region

## Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

### 2014 Highlights

#### The 150th Anniversary:

- FoWB partnered with the NPS for volunteer resources and activities during the commemorative programs
- FoWB sponsored two two-day guided bus tours related to the 1864 Winter Encampment and the Battle of the Wilderness
- FoWB also sponsored a special day of activities at Ellwood in commemoration of the Battle

#### General Projects:

- The Brooder Barn Project: FoWB elected to partner with the NPS in the rehabilitation of the Brooder Barn. Much like the partnership that restored Ellwood, FoWB has agreed to fund the costs and supply significant volunteer resources where applicable.
- FoWB also funded the removal of the non-historic granary, the reconditioning of that site and the refurbishing of the parking area with new fence rails.

#### The BRC Committee: Battlefield and surrounds:

- Hosted the Annual Spring Park Day: 2 battlefields; 200+ volunteers; 600 volunteer hours
- Maintained the grounds at Ellwood in pristine condition with volunteers on the FoWB Ellwood Ground Force
- Performed major work on the Brooder Barn Project with volunteers on the Ground Force and two Eagle Scout Projects

#### The Ellwood Season:

- 46 trained interpreters
- 7,543 visitors and donations of \$5,947.15
- Extended hours included daily April 12 - August 17 and weekends and holidays thru Oct. 26
- 12 special events and 14 special tours

#### Membership:

- The Committee established a new and hopefully more user-friendly notification process
- Successful in its outreach to members, old and new, has seen a small but steady growth in "friends."

#### Heritage Program:

- Developed a Heritage Brochure and collaborated with Outreach to distribute

#### Volunteers:

- More than 9,000 hours were contributed by interpreters, Ground Force, Battlefield Volunteers, Board of Directors, Event participants and other special activities.
- A special incentive program for volunteers was initiated by FoWB under the direction of the Ellwood Committee. The intention is to provide all FoWB volunteers with special opportunities to enjoy tours and lectures as a way of saying "thank you" for their service.

## Preservation, Outreach and Community Projects:

- The voice for preservation continues to maintain a presence and partnership with Orange County officials and business leaders as the task of developing the Route 3 Corridor progresses with what we hope will be mutually beneficial balance.
- The Rapidan River Project, with its eye toward improved public access and the enhancement of the Rapidan River splendid assets, is being carried forward with vigor by a dedicated group of enthusiasts.
- FoWB has reached an agreement with the VDHR to function as stewards of the Woodville Tract (former site sought by Walmart) now the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Under the initial leadership of FoWB, the idea of a "temporary" Welcome Center to be located at the Wilderness intersection was launched and will be brought back for further discussion for 2015.
- FoWB along with Wealth Perseveres and the Germanna Foundation hosted the 3rd very successful Orange County Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours"
- The Communications Committee engaged in four *off* site outreach activities in Orange County, providing literature to DOOs of potential new supporters.
- FoWB continues to work with other organizations to promote the Wilderness area as a destination for lovers of all kind of history (Indian, Colonial, Rapidan River based, Gold Mining) anchored by the significant presence of the Wilderness Battlefield Park and the greater Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

## Special Note:

FoWB wishes to recognize the contributions of volunteers Gerry Culver and Diane Logan, and Howard Lambert and look forward to the opportunity when once again their talents may be utilized for the greater good of the battlefield.

**Treasurer's 2014  
Annual Report**

**Data as of September 30,  
2014**

**Ellwood Restoration  
Checking Account**

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2013 | \$33,296.63   |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2014 | \$12,378.92   |
| Change                      | (\$20,917.71) |

**FoWB Operating Checking  
Account**

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2013 | \$29,717.39 |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2014 | \$52,745.04 |
| Change                      | \$23,027.65 |

**Ellwood Restoration Money  
Market Account**

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2013 | \$10,344.65 |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2014 | \$10,345.68 |
| Change                      | \$1.03      |

**FoWB Money Market  
Account**

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2013 | \$10,898.85 |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2014 | \$10,899.95 |
| Change                      | \$1.10      |

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2013 | \$84,257.52 |
| Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2014 | \$86,369.59 |

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

## Ellwood Committee 2014 Annual Report

Members: Robin Nimmo, Chair, Dale Brown, Elaine Pratt, Bob Epp, Paul Gunther, Rodney Lackey, Greg Mertz

Ellwood's 17th season of being open to the public began on April 12th and ended on October 26th. Weekend and holiday openings began on April 12th through April 27th. Daily openings began April 28th until August 17th when weekend and holiday openings again took effect through Oct. 26th.

Visitation for the 2014 season totaled 7543. Donations totaled \$5947.15.

Training for new interpreters (15) and veterans (31) took place on February 15th and 27th under the direction of Supervisory Park Historian, Greg Mertz. Training sessions conducted by FoWB were scheduled on March 15th and 24th conducted by Robin Nimmo and Elaine Pratt with guest speakers.

### **The Ellwood event calendar for 2014:**

12/19-----Christmas at Ellwood, Open House for volunteer recruitment  
5/2 through 5/5---- Participation in the 150th Anniversary of the Overland Campaign. Included living history, re-enactments, Heritage Program tent, book signings, house tours, medical program, to name a few.  
5/11-----Mother's Day Event  
5/25-26-----Memorial Day Weekend  
6/13-----First of FSNMP'S "History at Sunset" Program (venue at Ellwood)  
7/26-----Medical Program, Open house for volunteer recruitment  
8/2-----Presentation and book signing by author Chris Mackowski  
8/16-----Park Appreciation Campfire program for FoWB volunteers  
8/17---Commemoration of Lafayette's breakfast at Ellwood  
9/28---Taming of the Wilderness  
10/16----FoWB Board of Directors hosted Orange County Chamber of Commerce Event  
10/18-----Medical Program

### **Special Tours included:**

Staff ride of Pentagon Officers  
Evening picnic for Orange County Historical Society which included house tour  
House tour for women's hiking group  
Journalists outing with lunch on lawn hosted by FoWB president, Zann Nelson  
High School group under direction of Bob DeRuntz  
Jr. Ranger group including lunch on the lawn  
Spotswood Church group  
Second Jr. Ranger group including lunch  
Third Jr. Ranger group including lunch  
Artist Preservation Group tour

Piedmont Ward of LDS Church youth group tour  
Tour led by Greg Mertz for members from CVBT, Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the Secretary of Nat'l Resources  
Tour by group from The Gettysburg Foundation  
Second tour by group from The Gettysburg Foundation led by Gary Gallagher

**Guided Bus Tours:**

Ellwood is a frequent stop for tours of Battles of Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse. Ellwood volunteers have hosted numerous tours led by Gordon Rhea, Scott Walker for Hallowed Ground Tours, Gary Gallagher, Frank O'Reilly and The Gettysburg Foundation.

**New in 2014:**

Hours that Ellwood is open were extended from 11:00-5:00 to 10:00-5:00.

Opening was moved up from April 20 to April 12.

Addition of the Ellwood Committee's "Programs" sub committee.

Outings and field trips organized and offered to FoWB volunteers in recognition for the generous offering of their time to the organization.

Groundwork laid for walking tours on Ellwood grounds and Wilderness

Crossing Trail to be given by FoWB volunteers.

Open house events at Ellwood for volunteer recruitment.

Expanded special speaker opportunities at Ellwood.

**2015:**

Walking tours at Ellwood given by FoWB volunteers

Soliciting of additional vendors and speakers for Taming of the Wilderness

New programs incorporated with the Medical Program events

Implementation of more educational programs for school age children



## **Battlefield Resources Committee 2014 Annual Report**

Submitted by Mark Wakeman, Chair

### ***2014 Volunteer Members:***

Gary Mauss-Ellwood Site Capt., Lee Woolf-Asst Site Capt., Paul Cavanaugh, Gil Churchill Robert Collis, Kenneth Frohnert, Paul & Linda. Gunther, Thomas Hamilton, Norman Kirsch, Rodney Lackey, Mark Leach, Nickolas Lollis, Joe Marks, Mike Pierce, Tom Rorrer, Bill Witter

**The purpose of the Battlefield Resources Committee {BRC} is to provide resources and manpower to the National Park Service for the physical maintenance and upkeep of the Wilderness Battlefield portion of the Fredericksburg Spotsylvania National Military Park {FSNMP}, helping to provide an enhanced experience for visitors to the battlefield.**

FoWB through the BRC continued to accomplish some significant projects for the National Park Service. Two Eagle projects were completed and the BRC conducted a spring and fall Park Day clean-up event. In the spring, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House Battlefields were spruced up in preparation of the Sesquicentennial events. In the fall, (event held on 1 Nov, after this report was prepared), the Wilderness Battlefield was cleaned up in preparation for winter. The Brooder Barn restoration project, started in the fall of 2013, is still ongoing but expected to be finished this winter. Upon completion, there will be a fully plumbed public bathroom on the northeast corner of the building and the BRC will have a brand new much larger maintenance facility. Upon completion, the small maintenance garage across the driveway will be torn down.

### **Ellwood Ground Force (EGF)**

This was the first year that the EGF was part of the BRC. There have been no changes in the outstanding weekly upkeep the EGF provides to the Ellwood grounds. This year there was a lot of effort to prepare the grounds in advance of the Sesquicentennial events. As the 2014 Ellwood season starts drawing to a close, one noteworthy fact is the number of new EGF volunteers that joined us in 2014 and the tasks they completed besides their normal duties:

- New "worm fence" installed for parking area.
- Preparing for 150th\_ EGF removed significant overgrowth all around the Brooder barn to improve the view-shed and enable the scouts unobstructed access to the outside walls.
- GF and FoWB members tore out old wiring and old wooden walls. The old water pipes and electrical junction box inside were also removed in preparation for the new floor and wiring.

A hearty thanks to the ground force for all their hard work behind the scenes this year! This winter will be spent moving into and upgrading the new spacious Brooder Barn.

### **Brooder Barn-Eagle Candidate Ty Rivard-BSA Troop 948**

This project was integral to the Ellwood Brooder Barn restoration. FoWB funded Ty's project, it consisted of removal of at least a decade's worth of debris from barn, window

removal and installation, and external walls pressure cleaning and multiple coats of painting. Ty started in November 2013 and completed his project in October 2014. Total volunteer time to complete this project-136 **hours**.

### **Brooder Barn- Eagle Candidate Ian Shampine-BSA Troop 791**

This project, also funded by FoWB was tied closely to the other one. Ian could not start until the roof was done in May. Ian's project consisted of painting the fascia board, installing 120 feet of screen along each side of the roof to close the soffits from critter access, paint and install a wood soffit on the north face of brooder barn, and then install 120 feet of rain gutters and 2 down spouts. Total volunteer time to complete this project-88 hours.

### **Spring Park Day-05 Apr- Wilderness, Spotsylvania Ct. house Battlefields**

Park Day, a nationally sponsored event by the Civil War Trust and The History Channel was once again a huge success. The focus this year was on the two FSNMP battlefields that were part of the 2014 Sesquicentennial event. Accomplishments consisted of over 600 volunteer man-hours, ~ 105 garbage bags of trash removed, painting, monuments cleaned, debris & brush removed.

Below is short summary of what was accomplished :

- Wilderness Site-105 volunteers, >90 bags garbage removed, bollards painted, CCC compound completely cleaned of debris and leaves, Sanders field visitor shelter area cleaned up, 66% of Hill-Ewell 10-yarded, Longstreet & Vermont pull-offs cleaned up, all monuments raked and spruced up.
- Spotsylvania C.H.-100 volunteers, > 15 bags of trash cleared from 1.5 mile section of Brock Rd., gate & main sign at visitor shelter painted, bollards at Anderson triangle, signs throughout park and back gate painted, entire park 10 yarded, assisted NPS with wood cut up and removal.

### **Medical Tent Upgrade**

The medical tent was purchased without poles a few years ago. The manufacturer instructions showed poles fabricated out of 2x4s and other hardware. During high wind conditions at the Ellwood 150th activities in May, the main beam broke collapsing the tent. Luckily, there were no injuries. The BRC found a company in NH that custom fabricates authentic wooden poles and the FoWB Board of Directors approved the purchase. The new poles were used during the September Taming the Wilderness event with no problems and for future events the tent can be used safely.

### **Wilderness and Spotsylvania C.H. Sesquicentennial Reenactment Event**

FoWB supported this Spotsylvania County sponsored event. Mark Wakeman coordinated all volunteers and thanks needs to go out to the FoWB members that also volunteered to work at this 4-day event.

### **Fall Park Day-1 November**

The focus of this event is trash pickup in the Wilderness Battlefield.

## **Membership Committee 2014 Annual Report**

Members: Milbrey Bartholow, Katherine Philipp  
Submitted by Zann Nelson, Acting Chair

Currently we have 265 members, including 17 honorary and 5 organizational members. Approximately 150 members live within 35 miles of the Wilderness Battlefield.

We are very grateful for our members especially to those who continue to renew their memberships year after year and provide us needed funds to support our many activities through their dues and donations as well as provide us a dedicated core of local volunteers.

Since the 2013 Annual Membership Meeting, we have acquired 49 new members.

The Membership Committee morphed a bit for 2014, most significantly in no longer being the coordinator of the Heritage Program, now its own standing committee.

This new found time enabled the Membership Committee under the direction of Milbrey Bartholow who became the data base coordinator to focus on process, procedures and a bit of housecleaning.

An aggressive and supportive notification system has been established and published and will continue to focus on cultivating the wonderful support FoWB receives from its members.

2015 will find the Membership Committee coordinating with other committees on the development of a FoWB brochure and planning and conducting a membership campaign.

We hope each of you will make it a goal to bring in one new member! !

## **Board Enhancement Committee 2014 Annual Report**

Committee Composition: Dan Nickelson, Chair, Dorothy Mosso, Craig Raines,  
Dale Brown, Jimmy Lee

The BEC has had a busy, productive year. Its major activities are as follows:

- Facilitated the Board's February retreat where annual plans were discussed and rules for Board conduct were formulated.
  
- Drafted and brought to the Board for its review two critical governing documents:
  1. A Board of Directors Code of Conduct policy and Procedures for consideration of any formal complaint regarding a Board member's actions.
  2. The Role of Committees and Enhancement Guidelines
  
- Conducted a comprehensive review of the organization's bylaws and developed amendments for Board consideration to strengthen them.
  
- Reviewed the status of artifacts loaned or donated to FoWB and recommended that FoWB not engage any kind of artifact loan or acquisition activity.
  
- Served as Nominating Committee to fill the open seats on the board.

## Communications Committee Annual Report

Members: Ann Bayer, Zann Nelson, George Smith, Beth Stenstrom

Submitted by Mark Leach, Chair

*"The Communications Committee shall coordinate and implement internal and external communications to ensure a consistent and appropriate message is presented to target markets."*

### **2014 Activities:**

#### Web Site, E-Blasts and Social Media

- The FoWB Facebook page has accumulated more than 300 likes since it was launched two years ago. 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 groups.
- 'Constant Contact' continues to be FoWB's our primary electronic outreach tool. Attractively formatted general interest E-Blasts are routinely sent to nearly 600 recipients who have signed up for the electronic mailing list. The application is also used for targeted mailings to local residents and FoWB members.
- The web site continues to be improved to provide more information to prospective visitors to Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield as well as FoWB members and volunteers. Some examples:
  - A video overview of Ellwood and FoWB's partnership with NPS was added to the home page. The video was funded by the Ellwood Committee. Additional NPS videos were added to the Wilderness Battle pages.
  - Wilderness Brigade and Ellwood Legacy biography stories were added.
  - Created online information pages and online registration forms for Park Day and the bus tours. Added photos from Park Day.

#### Publications

- Wilderness Battlefield/Ellwood Rack Cards displayed at various visitor center, hotels and other tourism sites in the area.
- A new FoWB general information tri-fold brochure is in development and is planned to be distributed beginning in the spring of 2015. The brochure will feature information on the organization, volunteer opportunities, membership and the Heritage Program.

#### Outreach and Promotion

- A dedicated and energized group of volunteers spent countless hours preparing for and conducting a number of public outreach booths. Kudos to Beth Stenstrom, George Smith, Ann and Carl Bayer, Milbrey Bartholow, Mike and Linda Pierce and Shirley and Gordon Rowe!
- Outreach booths were presented at: Orange Street Festival, Gordonsville Street Festival, Orange Business Expo, Lake of the Woods Fourth of July Festival and a number of events at Ellwood. While we don't have an estimate for the total number of folks that we visited with ... The estimated count for the two street festivals was more than 1300!
- Promotional handouts and giveaway items were distributed at all events.

**2015 Activities:**

## Web Site, E-Blasts and Social Media

- Improve the appeal and information of the web site with enhanced content, videos, and slide shows
- Continue to increase sign-ups for E-Blast notifications and Face Book 'Likes'

## Publications

- Increase distribution of rack cards in the Fredericksburg area
- Collaborate with and assist all committees with the production of FoWB publications
- Publish and distribute the new FoWB brochure

## Outreach

- Increase number of public outreach opportunities for the "FoWBhfo Table" primarily in the Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg areas.
- Collaborate with other committees to conduct targeted membership drives, HP and volunteer recruitment.
- Investigate additional tools for visitors to sign up for the mailing list.

## **Heritage Program Committee 2014 Annual Report**

Members: Robin Nimmo, Chair, Don MacNemar, Administrator,  
Dale Brown, Milbrey Bartholow, Katherine Philipp, Janice Poole

During 2014 the Heritage Program Committee increased from four to six persons. This was due to the anticipated growth in number of members, especially generated from the 150th Overland Campaign Anniversary.

Currently, the committee is working on 9 applications. Increases have stemmed from names that were received from the Spotsylvania tourism director. Transferal of names came from a list generated during Spotsylvania's participation in the 150th anniversary festivities.

The Heritage Program was well represented at Ellwood during the 150th, featuring a Heritage tent with committee members assisting visitors with queries and providing valuable information on the "how- tos and whys" of joining. Current members could personally tell their ancestor's stories and be videotaped. The videos are for use on the FoWB website.

The special offer of a \$50.00 donation which includes a \$20.00 level of membership for a year, has been extended from December of 2014 to indefinitely. The \$50.00 still includes a frameable certificate, a packet containing items related to the battle, such as the FoWB pin and ribbon and a FoWB hat, the member's family tree and ancestor's personal story. Copies of the HP member's ancestor's personal story and their family tree occupy a permanent place in the Heritage Program books on display at Ellwood.

Recognition of new members is done at the annual meeting. Existing members are also remembered.

The Heritage Program currently has 31 Wilderness Brigade members and 9 Ellwood Legacy members.

In 2015 the Heritage Program Committee is looking to increase membership and will be co-ordinating with the Membership and Communications Committees, along with Outreach.

**FoWB BOARD of DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHIES**  
*Continuing Board Members*

**Nate Bond (2015)**

**Committee: Ellwood Interpreter**

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 for the past five years. He has served as a closer for the past three years, assumed the Ellwood interpreter scheduling job in late July of 2011, and is the current chairman of the Membership Committee. 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.

**Robert (Bob) L. Lookabill (Three Year Term 2016)**

Bob was born in West Virginia. He holds a Masters 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, he has worked for several defense contractors, both overseas and in the States. He currently holds a position with the Boaz Allen Hamilton Company supporting the Department of Defense in Charlottesville. He is also a retired Navy Reserve Captain.

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

Bob and Judy reside in Spotsylvania near the Chancellorsville 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.



**Dwight L. Mottet (2015)**

**Committee: Finance; Ellwood Interpreter**

Dwight was born, raised, and educated in Ohio. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geology, from The Ohio State University and a Master of Science with Honors in Logistics Management, from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

He was employed by the US Department of Energy becoming Director, Management and Administrative Division, Fossil Energy Program. He also worked in the private sector serving as vice president of a small management consulting firm specializing in information systems, education, socioeconomic analysis, and operations research.

A past president (2002-2006) and twelve year member of FoWB, Dwight is also a member of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, The Blue and Gray Education Society, the Civil War Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the LOW Civil War Study Group.

He lives at the Lake of the Woods. Hobbies include: travel, Civil War tours, AARP, church activities, and being a docent. He was married for 37 years to the late Janet F. Mottet.

**Daniel (Dan) Nickelson (2015)**

**Committees: Chair: Board Enhancement**

Dan was born and raised on a farm in Eastern Colorado and moved to Spotsylvania in 1999. Over the course of time he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia from 1962-1964. There he taught chemistry, physics and biology. He spent 18 years in the Federal government starting with Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty and ending with a long tour in Medicare and Medicaid. He also worked as Director of Government Relations for The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, a large health care provider located in Ohio and Florida.

Dan is a former member of the FoWB Board of Directors and served as President for two years (2007 and 2008).

Semi-retired, Dan provides consulting services on health care financing and organization. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Spotsylvania Regional Hospital.

He is married to Susan Shull (45 years) and has a son and two grandchildren living in Maryland. Dan and Susan's younger son, Joel, passed away in 2012.

**Robin Nimmo (2015)**

**Committees: Chair: Heritage Program, Ellwood; Member: FoWB 150th Planning**

Robin was born in Michigan in 1956 and an interest in history started at an early age. Robin's travels have taken her to Louisiana, South Carolina, upstate New York, and now to Virginia and have cultivated a passion for study of the various cultures throughout the Eastern and Southern portions of the United States.

The studies have engaged Robin in a variety of volunteer activities in each region. Robin has successfully folded this interest into a life that has included her family responsibilities as well as employment in the financial industry and management positions in retail and real estate.

In 2006, Robin moved with her husband John to Fredericksburg, Virginia feeling very fortunate to be living in an area so steeped in history. Robin and John have 4 adult children and 2 grandchildren living in New York and South Carolina.

A love of history and the Civil War in particular, led Robin to involvement in organizations that are related to those interests. She has served as a docent at Kenmore and volunteered at the Rappahannock Heritage Center, in Fredericksburg, VA. Currently she is a licensed tour guide for the city of Fredericksburg and also gives ghost tours for "Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Fredericksburg."

Her interests include archeology, interior design, and painting and she is an avid reader.

Robin has been a member of FoWB since 2006. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 2009, stepped away in mid- 2011 and was re-elected in 2013.

She has served as an interpreter at Ellwood, facilitator of the Speakers' Bureau and a former chair of the Membership Committee. Currently Robin serves as the chair of the Heritage Program and Ellwood committees and is a member of the FoWB 150th Planning Committee.

### **Jeff Slunt (2015)**

**Treasurer; Committee Member: Finance Committee**

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 the chair of 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.

### **George J. Smith (Three Year Term 2015)**

**Committees: Member: Communications**

George was born in El Paso, Texas to a career Army father resulting in living in multiple locations in Europe and Texas. Upon graduation from the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in Business Administration, George was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army. He served over 30 years in a combination of active and reserve component assignments.

George has a Masters in Human Resources from Webster University and is a Senior Logistics Analyst for the Defense Logistics Agency.

Multiple deployments, notwithstanding, George helped raise his two adult children, Edward and Tiffany and served in various adult leadership positions in the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and District Round Table.

He has served as an Ellwood interpreter for the past two years and lead interpreter for one year along with participation in National Park Day for the past two years. George has been an avid American history buff since childhood with an emphasis in military history. Throughout his various worldwide and stateside assignments, George has always availed himself to study the local culture and history.

Being from Texas, George's favorite link into the Civil War is Hood's Texas Brigade. He is proud of the brigade's performance as part of the Army of Northern Virginia and Gen. Longstreet's First Corps. George especially enjoys sharing the critical role that the Texas Brigade played on May 6, 1864 in stopping the Union advance.

**Mark Wakeman (2015)**

**Chair, Battlefield Resources Committee**

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 (21) and Calvin (18). Mark and Travis were Ellwood interpreters in 2008 & 2009. Mark was also the Ellwood volunteer interpreter scheduler. After Travis left for college in 2010 Mark and Calvin focused on battlefield maintenance and preservation. Calvin worked on numerous projects on all the FSNMP battlefields until this fall when he left for college. Mark has helped coordinate 4 Eagle preservation and enhancement projects on the Wilderness Battlefield and is currently working with another Eagle candidate on the Brooder Barn Project at Ellwood.

## **Nominations for Board of Directors (Alpha Order)**

\*Denotes incumbent member nominated for reelection to the Board

### **Milbrey Bartholow (Three Year Term 2017)**

**Committees: Member: Membership, Heritage Program, Special Events  
Subcommittee of Ellwood Committee, Outreach Committee and Historic House  
Guide**

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 money to retire early.

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 hf 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 10 other ancestors who fought in the Civil War, but only one of them was at the Wilderness. Two died at Chancellorsville.

She has been married to Robert Bartholow for almost 43 years. They have a son Eric (and Amey) who has a son Reed and a Daughter Kristen (and Dave). They all live in Richmond.

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

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 has come out of retirement for the past three Taming of the Wilderness events. She has also recently begun doing some Civil War reenacting and was seen at the 1soth weekend in her attire.

She is a member of the Fredericksburg United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter. She is also active at LOW church, playing handbells and teaching Sunday School. Other interests include computers, genealogy, and sewing.

### **Yvette Blake (Three Year Term 2017)**

Im 52, retired military, and married with children. In June 2007, I retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 from the US Army where I served as a logistician. I presently work as a Supervisory Supply Systems Analyst for the government. In addition, I own a small business (Providence Financial Solutions) which provides a number of financial services, including tax preparation and mobile notary services. I am also a licensed real estate agent associated with CTI Real Estate. I have both a bachelors and a master's degree, and am presently back in college working towards a degree in Graphic Design.

My family consists of a charming, humorous husband, handsome twin boys, a beautiful daughter and daughter-in-law plus two grandsons.

My hobbies include traveling, reading, shopping, the theater, exercising (tai chi, jogging, kick boxing, and yoga), weapons training, finding innovative ways to make a dollar out of fifteen cents (investing), gatherings with friends and family and listening to music. My newest hobby is Civil War reenacting, meeting new people of the same interest and learning from the historians I've met. I am a member of the 23rd United States Colored Troops, the Woman of the American Civil War Era group and a board member of the John J Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum.

### **Gil Churchill (Three Year Term 2017)**

**Ellwood Interpreter; Ellwood Grounds Crew; Rookie of the Year 2013**

Gil was born near Chicago, Illinois 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, is currently Chair of the Maintenance and Ecology Committee, and participates with Veterans, Woodworkers, and AARP organizations.

### **Peter Kolakowski (Three Year Term 2017)**

Peter graduated with a Bachelor's in history and political science from Ripon College and a Master's of Public Administration from American University. He has been a resident of the area since 1972.

He served in the U.S. Army and has been employed in appointed and executive management positions in Virginia local government in Fredericksburg, State government in Richmond working for VDOT, and at the federal government level for the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren.

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

### **\*Mark Leach (Three Year Term 2017)**

**Vice Pres., Committee Ch.:** Communications; Ellwood Interpreter and Ground Force

Mark was born in Hudson, Wisconsin, attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison and is trained in contract negotiation and project management.

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

Mark is an interpreter at Ellwood (since 2012) and a member of the FoWB Ground Force. In addition to these duties he is chair of the Communications Committee.

### **\*Gary Mauss (Two year term 2016)**

**Committee Member: Battlefield Resources and FoWB Ground Force**

Born and raised in the apple country just north of Gettysburg, PA, Gary entered the Air Force straight out of high school, as a way to broaden his horizons and see the world a bit. A first tour of duty in southern New Mexico got the Southwest in his blood, from which he's never quite recovered.

Numerous assignments around the country and the world followed, and he ended up making a career of the military, retiring in Virginia two years ago, after moving here in 2005. In the process of those moves, he started school in New Mexico, and finally graduated from the University of Nebraska, and later again from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

Also among those moves, he found his wife Lynne in Myrtle Beach, and now has two daughters and a son. A yard wide and a foot deep, he held a variety of jobs in the Air Force, among those being a program manager, contract specialist, operational tester, aircraft weapons specialist, and command post controller.

Still on an extended post-retirement 'sabbatical', he's gotten heavily involved in local volunteer opportunities, including FoWB, a local Veteran's club, volunteer Fire & Rescue, two churches, and others, and is pending return to the active work force until his kids are out of college.

**Elizabeth Lee "Beth" Stenstrom (Three year term 2017)**

**Committee Member: Communications; Historic House Guide at Ellwood Manor and Refreshments Coordinator for Ellwood and FoWB**

Beth is a retired History Teacher, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A & M University, and a Masters in Education degree in Psychological Counseling from the University of Missouri in St. Louis. She is also a trained avocational archeologist, and has worked side by side with professional archeologists in Texas for many years.

Beth is the chaplain in the Washington-Lewis DAR chapter in Fredericksburg, and a member of the Battlefield Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. 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 sole purpose is to protect and maintain Holy sites in Jerusalem.

Beth and Jim have two children, and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way! Hobbies include outdoor activities such as hiking and camping, genealogy, photography, reading, and they both love history!



## RETIRING

**Dorothy Mosso: 14 Years a volunteer and 13 Years on the Board of Directors Secretary; Committees: Member: Communications and Board Enhancement; Past Committee Chair: Membership and Heritage Program; Member of the Wilderness Brigade**

Dorothy was born and raised in a small West Texas town and moved to Virginia in November, 1999.

She spent 23 years in Civil Service working in San Bernardino, CA in the Children's Services Department which encompassed Protective Services, Adoption and Foster Homes. She attended Cralton Hills College in Southern California. After her retirement, Dorothy went into sales and worked in Houston, Texas and Dayton, Ohio and most recently in the Northern Virginia area.

She has five children, five grandchildren, three great granddaughters and two cats. Her hobbies include genealogy, reading, traveling, and history.

She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Daughters of the Republic of Texas; The Duke of Gloucester Society, Williamsburg, VA; Civil War Preservation Trust; Charter Member of the National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA; Central Virginia Battlefield Trust; Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table as well as being a fourteen year member of Friends of Wilderness Battlefield and thirteen years on the board of directors.

**Zann Nelson: 13 years a volunteer; 10 years on the Board of Directors President (2009- 2014); Director of Fund Development; Past Committee Chair: Communications, Board Enhancement, Finance and Membership: Served on the Heritage Program Committee and as an Ellwood Interpreter; and Chair or Co-Chair of the Annual Dinner Auction**

Born in Texas, Zann moved with her family to Virginia in 1952 and continues to live on the family farm in Culpeper. Zann has served as the Executive Director of the Museum of Culpeper History (1994-2006), the owner/operator of an equine training facility, published a statewide periodical about the Thoroughbred industry, and was the principal of a company that managed political campaigns. She is skilled in marketing, fundraising, event planning, writing and research.

Trained in museum management and organizational development, she holds a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University. Zann is also certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia as a professional mediator.

Currently, a freelance investigative journalist, Zann has published nearly 400 columns, a dozen plus feature articles and served as editor of the *Civil War Page Project* for the Culpeper Star Exponent.

In 2012, Zann co-founded the African American Heritage Alliance and wrote and produced the musical tribute, *"Faith, Fortitude and the Quest for Freedom."*

In the fall of 2012, just for fun, she functioned as the casting coordinator and general "fixer" for a Smithsonian documentary entitled *"The Fight for Freedom."*

Zann began volunteering with FoWB, as the Fund Development Director for the Ellwood Restoration Project in 2001; became a member of the Board of Directors (2005-2014) and served as president (2009-2014).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTACTS and SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer Service and Unique Opportunities: [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org)

Contact Mark Wakeman, [mark.wakeman@comcast.net](mailto:mark.wakeman@comcast.net), Ch., Battlefield Resources Committee:

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

Contact Robin Nimmo, [robinnimmo@comcast.net](mailto:robinnimmo@comcast.net)

- Ellwood Historic House Guide Program
- Heritage Program

Upcoming Events/Activities: 2014

- Saturday, December 13: FoWB Board of Director's meeting, Wilderness Library, 9am
- Saturday, December 20: Christmas at Ellwood, 9am-2 pm

2015

- January: Orientation for new board members
- February 14(Tentative) : FoWB Board of Directors meeting, Wilderness Library, 9am  
D March TBD: Interpreter Training
- April 6: CWT Annual Park Day
- April 10: (Tentative) Ellwood Manor opens for the 2015 Season
- April 11: (Tentative) : FoWB Board of Directors meeting, Wilderness Library, 9am



## Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.

P.O. Box 576  
Locust Grove, VA 22508

November 8, 2014

Dear Friends;

After twelve years of service to Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) and the National Park Service in a variety of roles, I have concluded it is time for me to move on to other life adventures. Accordingly, at the end of this year I will formally retire from the FoWB Presidency and Board of Directors. It has been my distinct honor to have had the opportunity to support these fine organizations' missions and to work with a wonderful group of individuals and volunteers.

FoWB has evolved significantly since its origins and is now a sophisticated and robust organization. During the last twelve years there have been many major accomplishments; none of which could not have been achieved without your participation and engagement. Highlights include:

- Restoration of Ellwood Manor,
- Enrichment of the visitor experience at Ellwood,
- The addition of trails and rehabilitation of the surrounding landscape at Ellwood,
- Creation of an honorary heritage membership category for those who have had ancestors who were involved in the Battle of the Wilderness or connected to Ellwood, and
- Engaging the wider community in support of historic preservation related to the battlefield and the immediate area.

A unique feature of the past twelve years has been the positive, close working ties that have been forged with the National Park Service. Without their leadership, patience and collaboration much of what has been achieved would not have happened. I extend a special thanks to their openness in the development of a special relationship with a private, not-for-profit group in support of a common mission.

In closing, let me reiterate my deep gratitude for your support and participation. It is your contributions that have made FoWB so respected and successful. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with you and wish you and FoWB continued success in its mission.

Warmly,

*Zann*

Zann Nelson  
President