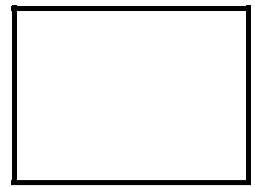


Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.  
PO Box 1755, Asheville, NC 28802

Asheville Civitan Foundation, Inc.  
PO Box 1755, Asheville, NC 28802



# Mountain Musings



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Asheville Civitan Club  
Officers and Directors, 2009-2010  
Officers:  
President -John Reed  
Pres. Elect. -Calvin Remmers  
Secretary/Treasurer - Frank Holby

Directors: Rob Nelson, Vince Angelico,  
Gordon Becker, William Anthony,  
David Aiton, and Keith Thomson

Ex officio: Larry Liggett and David Ivey  
Chaplain: Mason Wilson

Sgts-at-Arms: Don Fox and Rob Nelson

Mountain Musings Editor: Roger Hill  
e-mail: rhill@ashevillecivitan.org  
Publisher: Keith Thomson



Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.  
Builders of Good Citizenship  
88th Year of Service  
Mountain Musings is the  
official weekly bulletin of  
The Asheville Civitan Club  
and  
The Asheville Civitan  
Foundation

Asheville Civitan Foundation  
Officers and Board Members,  
2009-2010

Officers:  
President - David Ivey  
Vice President - Norma Messer  
Secretary - Britt Hudson  
Treasurer - Dennis Michele

Directors: Bob Weiler, Liz Huesemann,  
George Morosani, Larry Holt, and Les  
Mitchell

Ex officio: John Reed and Frank Holby

Past Lt. Governors NC District West:  
Robert Gray, 1998-1999, 2008-2009  
Ralph Scarritt, 1995-1996

# Mountain Musings



[www.ashevillecivitan.org](http://www.ashevillecivitan.org)

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TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 12:00 NOON

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## ASHEVILLE TOURISTS

With baseball already in the air, the **Club** will hear about prospects for the *Asheville Tourists* in the coming season. Either the new owner/president, **BRIAN DEWINE**, or the general manager, **LARRY HAWKINS**, (perhaps both) will preview the team.

**JESSE LEDBETTER** will give the invocation.

**ED DUNCAN** will be the greeter.

**MENU FOR TUESDAY:** Chicken \* Salad \* Bread \* Fruit Bowl  
Assorted Desserts \* Beverages

## FOUNDATION QUARTERLY REPORT

**Foundation Treasurer DENNIS MICHELE** reported the **Foundation** results for the last quarter of 2009 as follows: Income, \$1,164.35; Investment Gains, \$6,640.72; Management Fees, \$451.81; Fund Balance, \$240,511.79. This represents two quarters of consecutive solid gains.

## NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM

**President-elect REMMERS** introduced the speaker, **JULIE VIDOTTO**, who has been with the *Arboretum* for nine years after serving at Georgia's *Callaway Gardens* and Chicago's *Botanical Gardens* prior to her appointment here. She also taught school in the Washington DC area and credits that experience with not being frightened at the prospect of having to do without a microphone as a loud voice is *de rigueur* in dealing with classrooms of eighth graders. Fortunately, this proved not to be the case.

**Ms. VIDOTTO's** professed aim was to get members to visit the *Arboretum* even this early in the season as signs of spring are already in evidence: witch hazel is in bloom; crocuses are peeking through; and the daffodils are budding. There are over 435 acres of land there, 77 of which are "under cultivation." It has a tripartite administration in that the land is part of the US Forest Service, but the *Arboretum* is administered by the State of North Carolina through the University of North Carolina. So going through channels is sometimes a rather circuitous process. The plus side is that there is little chance that the land will ever be developed commercially.

The vision statement for the *Arboretum* is five-fold: education, garden and landscape demonstration, economic development, research, and conservation. The attendance at the facility has steadily increased over the 24 years of its existence. Last year, 380,00 people visited, averaging a stay of three hours. Only nine years ago, when the speaker first came to Asheville, the visitors totaled only about 100,000 and stayed for only 45 minutes. Much of the support for the *Arboretum* comes from *The North Carolina Arboretum Society* which has a current membership of 7800 households representing about 10,700 individuals.

**Ms. VIDOTTO** distributed several brochures, among which was a map of the gardens and trails in the facility. She "walked through" from the Education Center to the Baker Exhibit Center noting the various gardens along the way. Of particular interest is the Bonsai Exhibition Garden which is unique in that the miniatures are native North Carolina trees and shrubs trained in Bonsai style. This is an approach pioneered by an on-staff gardener who has earned a national reputation for his creativity. Arriving at the Exhibit Center, the speaker explained that this facility hosts traveling exhibits as well as those locally or regionally generated. Its current exhibit, which has garnered a lot of local publicity, is called "The Scoop on Poop." Among the top local attractions are the annual quilt show and the orchid show, both of which are spectacular displays of their separate interests. Upcoming exhibits include a famed artist's oversized watercolors and a Cherokee exhibit arranged by Washington's Natural History Museum.

Another important component of the *Arboretum's* offerings is adult education courses, approximately 170 of them, many of which have been taken over from the Reuter Center's *Blue Ridge Naturalist* program. Between 8 and 10 thousand adults take these courses (all of the "ologies" according to the speaker that were avoided in college. One of the handouts contained the schedule of courses for the year and they range from basket weaving and quilting to entomology and ornithology.

So-called "Discovery Camps" are offered April through August that stress the benefit of outdoor experiences for young people. They nurture an appreciation of the natural world and their place in it. The camps are age specific from pre-kindergarten through high school. There are fees attached.

The final component in the mission statement **Ms. VIDOTTO** dealt with was research. There is an important effort in the region to identify and explore the possibility of medicinal properties in native plants. The diversity of plant life in the area makes it ideal for this kind of research. Some knowledge of the beneficial effects of these plants has been known for generations of mountain folk, but only recently have commercial uses been looked into seriously. The *Arboretum* is attempting to coordinate efforts by various elements of this growing enterprise so as to make it more efficient and to keep it as local as possible. Another aspect of this interest is that the *Arboretum* is acting as a medicinal plant repository to preserve vanishing species.

The *Arboretum* suffered severe budget cuts last year and is striving mightily to survive them. Everyone who has visited this great facility hopes that it will do so and continue its good work.