

Conococheague Pioneer Times

The Newsletter of the Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage

Volume 31 Issue 2



2nd Quarter 2025

Good Day to you...From the Executive Director



What an incredible spring booking season! **Over 3,000 students** participated in our educational programs from March to May, ranging from Kindergarteners to Senior Garden Club members!

It's truly been non-stop and fast-paced, but knowing the engaging 18th-century experiences students are having—and the impact the **Conococheague Institute** has on the community—keeps smiles on the faces of our dedicated team of staff, interns, and volunteers... and even on the animals, who have been working extra hard!

Thank you to everyone who donates to our mission. Your support allows us to continue doing what we all love: preserving frontier history, encouraging a love of our natural environment, and fostering stewardship in the next generation.



Aside from our education programs, what has the spring season been like at CI?

Thanks to some incredible corporate volunteer days (and one amazing Scout troop—**Greencastle Troop 199**), we've had a very productive few months of site projects.

Middletown Valley Bank and **JLG Industries** sponsored our Earth Day plantings, with \$700 worth of garden crops and pollinator flowers planted. The Four Square Garden is looking incredible, and we're currently harvesting high yields of lettuce, turnips, roses, and rhubarb. Swing by and grab some—and see what else is growing!



Turn to page 4 to see more of the projects we've accomplished.

We want to make sure our members can enjoy the Conococheague Institute both in person and through our media. This newsletter is a great way to recap the last few months—but if you can visit, we'd love to **show you what's happening!** Contact me to schedule a tour, stop by during our weekend programming (now open Saturdays AND Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day), and don't miss the next event... just a few days away on June 14th!

*Finally, I'll note **I just celebrated my 5th Anniversary leading CI!** It's a job that requires many hats (literally), but it's been an honor to have your support, and I look forward to many years to come!*

Cheers! Matthew Wedd



1775: A Call to Arms

Saturday, June 14th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m



You're Invited!!!

Don't miss this event, there will be special lectures and presentations including:

Drew Shuptar Rayvis: Indigenous perspectives on the Revolution.

Daniel Sieh: Military Baking Oven

Jack Weaver: 12PM PA Long Rifle lecture

Forbes Road Frolic: Period music and marching songs on fiddle and cittern

The German Regiment: Militia in the tavern and women in the cabin with hearth cooking and crafts

Oakgrove Farm: History of Libation
...plus CI staff and volunteers of course

2025 Spring Contributions

We didn't hold a Spring Matching Campaign, as you have all continued to be generous supporters of our mission. If you would like to be the matching donor for a summer campaign, contact us for more information! Please know that every donation makes a significant impact on our ability to preserve the past, encourage stewardship in the next generation, and maintain our beautiful site for the entire community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed between March 16th and June 6th, and to those who continue to give generously in support of our 2025 operations, programs, educational bookings, and preservation efforts!

Proud CI Contributors

Joshua Beall's Company of Maryland Forces, Linda Thomason, Jan and Lee Davis, Christopher Husson, Karen Miller, Jean Woods, Mary Sanders, Jim Strutz, Lisa McCully, John Stauffer, Mary Ruth Reis, Judith Ditto, David Stauffer, Elizabeth Stevens Richard Johnson, John Johnston, Richard Bell, Pam Knepper, Samson Historical, Vince Newell, Ken Shannon, Bonnie Buchanan, Michelle and Helen Timmons, Leonard Brown, Keith and Angela Taber, Gay Buchanan, Lady Moon Farms, Chuck Krepley, Phyllis Wertime, Oliver Goetz, Ruth Hamil, Dan Hartle, Stephanie Decker, Richard Burkett, Middleburg/Mason Dixon Line Historical Society, JLG Industries, Legion Wesley Yeager Post 606, Nancy Trayer, the Estate of Joan McKean, Jessica Yount, David Patterson, Karen Martin, Andrew Chesnut, Steven Apple. Tammy Boyce, Millicent Hughes, Patricia Hornbaker, Ira Beckerman, Margaret Rowe, Kim Spanos Telsing, Jack Demuth, Americana Corner, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Patriot Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank Charitable Trust, Washington County Historical Society, Lonnie Smith, Visit Hagerstown Washington County CVB, Middletown Valley Bank, Renewal by Andersen, Walmart, Franklin County Visitors Bureau, F&M Trust, Fast Ink, and the Uxbridge Fife and Drum Corp ...and many contributions in our donation boxes during programs and events. Thank you!



In-Kind Donations

Cheers to **Dennis Kubicki** for adding a leather buff coat to our 17th century militia kit, **Hicksville Lumber** for gifting more fence posts for the animal pasture, **Brooke Burnette** for adding an antique trestle table to our Negley Cabin kitchen, **Robert and Virginia Putman** for gifting some family ceramics and furniture, **Nelson Oberholzer** for donating a rope bed, and **Shady Spring Farms** for creating a gift basket for our event raffle



Reasons to Give: Your Donations Make a Difference!

Maintaining our grounds and trails year-round, offering free weekend programming, and supporting the professional staff who plan and run our educational programs—all of this wouldn't be possible without contributions from people like you. Every donation is appreciated and wisely stewarded to ensure that the Conococheague Institute can continue its mission.

As our popularity grows, more and more businesses are putting their support into our community. The special events, activities, and projects they fund have a direct and positive impact on our visitors and members.

One of our most important donation funds is our Intern Fund, founded in memory of former CI intern **Lucas Lapole**. Thanks to generous support from the **PHMC Museum Support Grant, Jan and Lee Davis, David Stauffer**, and other contributors, the fund has expanded yet again—and this summer, we're proud to host four valuable paid interns.

If you're looking to support a fund that helps CI grow and benefits young professionals with a passion for history and nature, please consider contributing to the Intern Fund.

When you make a tax-deductible donation you are supporting CI's mission, benefiting the community, and we'd love to hear from you. Drop us a note with your next contribution, or mail in the slip on the last page of the newsletter.



Scan this link to make a tax deductible contribution to our intern fund directly through Square! We offer paid internships year round starting at \$15 per hour.

Or make an endowment contribution today, directly by donating stocks & securities directly. Just use this information
DTCC Number: 0141 Conococheague Institute Acct#6672-9564
A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$105,000 total to one or more charities directly. This is a tax-free process! Contact your IRA manager today!

Educational Highlights

With so many education bookings, we can’t highlight them all—but this spring, we had two new and unique programs we’d love to share with you: Tuscarora School District’s “Johnny Appleseed and the Conococheague Frontier” and Mercersburg Academy’s 9th Grade Experiential Learning Day.

Typically, when a group books a visit, they choose from a list of established programs—such as 18th-Century Medicine and Surgery, Birding and Botany, Women’s Roles, Colonial Life, and more. These are usually two-hour, presenter-led sessions. But in both of these cases, we worked hand-in-hand with the schools to create an extra-special, customized experience for their students.

Johnny Appleseed and the Conococheague Frontier

With 911 elementary school students from the **Tuscarora School District**, we had to make some special adaptations to ensure a successful experience for all. We set up six interactive stations that classes rotated through, each tailored to meet the needs of students ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade. That meant lots of hands-on learning!

Since all TSD students had read *Who Is Johnny Appleseed?* as part of the One Book, One District initiative, they arrived with a solid foundation of background knowledge. Using CI’s orchards, an antique cider press, and bushels of apples, we created a custom station that explored how apples are grown, cultivated, and processed into cider. Every student got to crush apples and enjoy a glass of freshly made cider—which turned out to be surprisingly delicious! During this immersive program, they also learned how sticky Johnny himself must have gotten, gathering seeds from the waste of old cider mills.

We were able to offer this experience at a significant discount thanks to educational support from **Patriot Federal Credit Union** and the **M&T Bank Charitable Trust**. Additionally, the **Tuscarora Education Foundation** provided funding for school district transportation—keeping Bain Road quite busy this April!



Mercersburg Academy 9th Grade Experience

This was a program we developed alongside students who had passed through our ‘Can you Live 18th Century’ program. A tour for the **entire 9th Grade of Mercersburg**, but with the big twist being that **those former students would be teaching** the stations!

The student-teachers shone as they presented on men’s and women’s clothing, country dance, herbal medicine, animal husbandry, and archery. The leadership they demonstrated was a wonderful example for the freshmen to emulate.

We’re very grateful to **Sophia, Maggie, Stella, Reagan, Oscar, Gianna, Taeon, Delia, and Nina** for taking on this role. We appreciate all the time they’ve spent at CI over the years!

In the afternoon, the 9th graders continued their field day with team-building outdoor activities that encouraged innovative thinking, participation, and communication. Challenges included building the tallest tower, crossing a river on stepping stones, a marble run with moving parts, blindfolded minefields, and more.

Pair that with perfect weather, local ice cream, and some amazingly engaged faculty leading their students — **give a big huzzah for another innovative program complete! Thank you Mercersburg Academy!**

Support for this program came from the R.Kurtz Endowment for Early American Life

Spring Activities: A Snapshot
More Educational Programs

Those big field trips aside, this season has still been our busiest yet! Since March, over 3,000 students from across the tri-state area have traveled to the Conococheague Institute. Without a doubt, **Animal Husbandry** has been our most requested new program—but **18th-Century Medicine and Surgery**, **Women’s Roles**, and **Colonial Games** continue to be popular choices. We’ve also seen a rise in bookings for the “*Civilian to Soldier*” experience, which includes 18th-century militia drills, musket firings, and oaths of allegiance.



Pasture 3 and Park Day Volunteers

Visitors may have noticed that our front native shade garden has been freshly weeded and mulched to highlight the plants, and our **Lawn to Prairie Conversion** is now in full bloom—showcasing all the hard work that went into it. Thanks to volunteers from **Park Day** and the **United Way May of Caring**, our animal areas are finally complete! In just one day, **Pasture 3** went from having only 15 posts in the ground to being fully enclosed. We made such great progress—and the Scouts demonstrated such impressive skills—that we were even able to build a **bridge for the goats** and **shade for the sheep**. With these additions, plus some giant rocks, logs, and a seesaw, this area is now officially the “**enrichment pasture**”—and the animals can often be found playing inside!



The Joan McKean Little Free Library

In memory of former CI Librarian **Dr. Joan McKean**, who supported our mission through her estate, we’ve dedicated a **Little Free Library** outside the Visitor Center in her honor.

Volunteer **Mark Niemeyer** expertly crafted the library to resemble a log cabin like our historic Negley House. We’ve also installed a memorial bench shaped like a stack of books, which will be accompanied by a plaque.

The library is already seeing lots of use—it’s a great way to share books and foster a love of learning within our community.



Animal Husbandry on the Frontier

We ended the last newsletter with the arrival of our full-time animals and asked you to help name them. We received scores of great suggestions, held a poll, took votes, and finally settled on the winners in time for our spring programs.

The mothers were already named by **Lappan Springs Farm**, following their tradition of naming each year’s births with a successive alphabet letter.

Deuce is the matronly **Black Welsh Mountain Sheep**, mother of our two lambs who were up for naming. For 2025, the letter was H, and the winners were **Harleah and Hannah**.

Harleah (pronounced “Harley”) draws inspiration from the Old English word leah, meaning meadow. **Hannah** is named in honor of Hannah Davis, one of the farm’s original inhabitants.

Carmella is the **Nigerian Dwarf Goat** mother of our two kids. The winning names were nature-themed: **Hazel** for the dark-horned, spotted-face kid, and **Hawthorne** for the brown patchwork kid. Kori has noticed during our programs that kids have been calling Deuce “Juice” and Hawthorne “Popcorn”—and we love it! They already have many pet names!

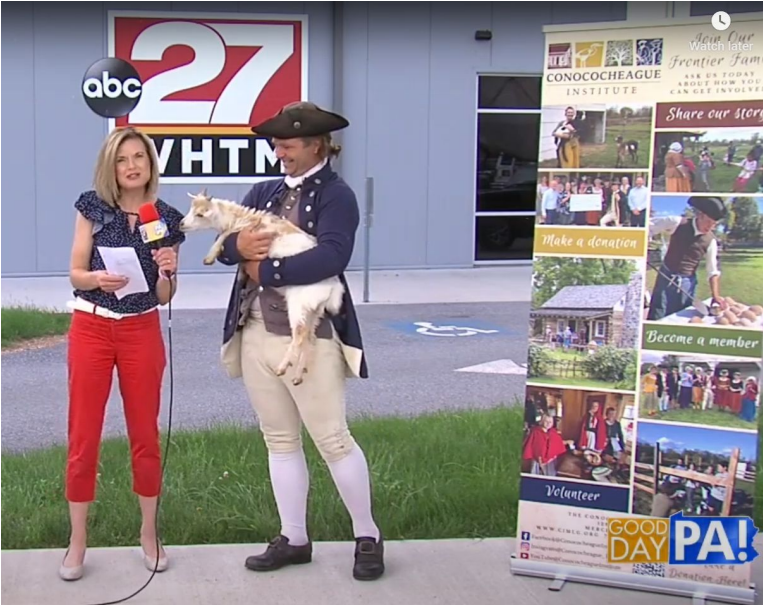
Note: After the naming was concluded, we noticed little Hazel was getting quite rambunctious. On closer inspection, it turns out there was a miscalculation of gender, so Hazel is now affectionately known as Hazelnut!



Become a Sheep Supporter and a Goat Giver

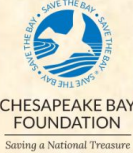
This new initiative is being launched with the help of grants from **Americana Corner** and the **Franklin County Community Foundation**, but we are accepting donations for the animals ongoing care, treatment and support.

All the animals worked incredibly hard this spring during the busy booking season, and really bring the farm here at CI to live. **Hawthorne** especially has become a crowd pleaser, jumping on backs on command, never turning down a pet, and he even appeared on ABC27 Good Day PA!



Meet the Summer Interns

All internships at CI are paid positions, and we're excited to welcome four new friends to our team this summer. Come meet them and see what they're up to!



Welcome Joslyn Loss
Forestry Specialist
Summer Internship



Joslyn brings a forestry specialty and focus, and despite the rain, she's already off to a fantastic start. Join us in giving her a warm CI welcome! Joslyn is a student at **Penn State Mont Alto**, and her internship this summer is made possible by a \$3,500 grant from the **Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership**—thanks to the **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** and the **Foxwynd Foundation**! Her focus this summer will be improving the tree health of our woodlot and native plantings, and devising a long-term management plan.

Join us in welcoming **Alex** from **Shippensburg University**. A public history student at Shippensburg, Alex will take on a curatorial role—organizing and researching artifacts, designing a new exhibit, and an educator role by becoming fluent in 18th-century living history. With our Revolutionary Homestead programs expanding to Saturdays and Sundays this summer, Alex will be instrumental in bringing that history to life. He's looking forward to learning more about PastPerfect, our museum and artifact software too.



Welcome Alex Tomlinson
and Ellen Hake
2025 Summer Internship



Ellen, majoring in Agricultural Studies at **Iowa State**, will support our continued growth as a living farmstead while helping us sustain a vibrant natural environment. One of her key projects will be improving our pond health—especially important after last summer's memorable "dryland pond" stretch. Her research and hands-on work will have a lasting impact on this vital ecosystem, and all the creatures that live there. Throughout the summer, our interns will also lend a hand with everything from Summer Camps and gardening to site renovations and our Animal Husbandry on the Frontier initiative.

And last but not least, join us in welcoming back **Mikaela**, who just graduated from **Greencastle Antrim High School**. Last year Mikaela accomplished so much: Summer Camps, building the animal pasture, historic programs and her Eagle Scout project. This summer we'll be utilizing her amazing skill set in all those areas, but she will be going to **Penn State Mont Alto** this Fall to pursue a career in Forestry, so we'll also be giving her training in chainsaw use and woodland management pairing her with Joslyn and Ellen!



Welcome Back
Mikaela Mummert
2025 Summer Internship



Please consider a donation to our intern fund. In the last newsletter we announced our 2025 contributions was \$10,500, and we sought to match it. We're thrilled to announce that the total contributions is currently \$16,000.

Just \$5,000 more to go!

Include 'Intern' on any donation and it will go towards this important initiative.

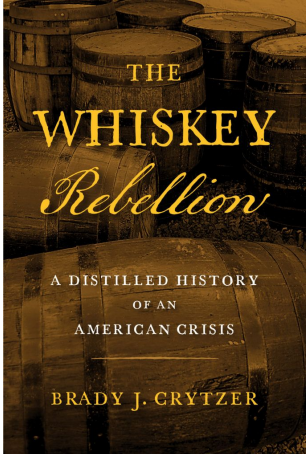
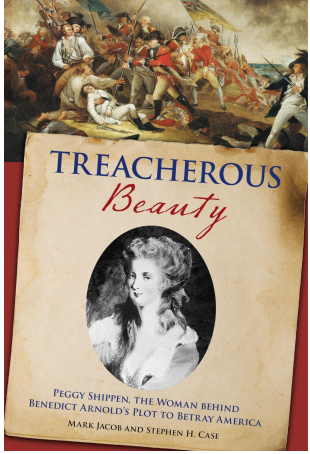
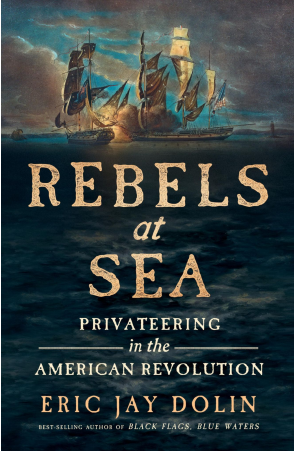
Our internships are important to the students, preparing them for a career in the humanities while allowing us to continue focusing on engaging hands-on programs for students, creating a healthy outdoor space for visitors, and expanding our reach with outreach events.

By increasing our Internships in 2025/26 we will have the needed hands for the increased activity on the site that recent growth has stimulated, and also provide a unique opportunity to the students through year round programs

The Welsh Barrens Visitor Center: Open every Saturday AND Sunday 10am to 5pm

Whenever you begin your visit, we encourage you to stop by the Visitor Center first. Greet our team, learn about the history of Rock Hill Farm, explore the exhibits, and make a purchase in the gift shop (or become a member to support our mission). We're always updating the exhibits, and there really is something for everyone.

Throughout the week, our staff are always on-site working, so give us a call or knock when you visit.



Conococheague Book Club: Third Thursday at 1pm

June 19th: "Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution" (2022) by Eric J. Dolan

July 17th: "Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen" (2012) by Mark Jacob and Stephen H. Case

August 21st: "The Whiskey Rebellion" (2023) by Brady J. Crytzer

All are welcome, join us for invigorating conversation on amazing historic topics.

Event Recap: '1775: Spring on the Farmstead'

A very special thank-you to everyone who attended our first 1775 event on May 10th—your presence helped make it a true success. We couldn't have asked for a better day to share with our community. Every part of the farmstead was alive with demonstrations of 18th-century life, and our guest presenters were phenomenal! Highlights included, tasting fresh-baked bread with **Daniel Sieh**, hearth cooking with **Mary** in the cabin, meeting adorable chickens with **Melissa Alexander** (at the Sign of the Lemon Tree), a musical extravaganza with the **Uxbridge Fife and Drum**, games, storytelling, and time in our bountiful garden. It also marked the official ribbon cutting for our 1775 Event Series and the launch of our Animal Husbandry Program. We're deeply grateful for the support of **Americana Corner**, **Middletown Valley Bank**, **F&M Trust**, and the **Franklin County Visitors Bureau** for helping bring this event to our community.



This event was free to all thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and our community



What's Next?

Aside from our full weekend 'Revolutionary Homestead' programs all summer, we have a couple of projects this season, which are only possible thanks to our members support.

- **Ben Flory's Eagle Scout Project (Troop 99)** is fully funded and underway. The lumber has been purchased and construction has begun on a covered seating area for our garden, perfect for resting after toiling in the soil. Thank you to **Lee Davis**, Ben's grandad **John Johnston** and an **anonymous donor** for supporting Ben's project.
- The woodlot and our plantings are seeing a huge renovation with **Joslyn Loss** and her expertise. By the end of summer, she also plans to present to us a woodlot management plan so we can continue her good work after her internship!
- The wetlands area is a true gem of CI, and home to turtles, frogs and herons, but we've seen some decline in the trail stability, and water flow. With intern **Ellen Hake** leading the efforts, we plan to stabilize the the banks, prevent erosion and clear upstream where our water source is being block
- **Summer Camps!** Sorry we've been delayed in getting details out, but **they will be taking place July 8th to 11th, and you can sign up for individual days or the whole experience**
- An epic Float is needed for the **America250 PA Franklin County's EPIC** parade on September 20th, 1PM in downtown Chambersburg. **Let us know if you have any ideas or experience with float design!** Otherwise it'll be our team walking with goats of leashes! You can also register your own float at https://na4.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhDzjUcufs_-SnplZL131mLyg54M4XDZjFDQi8O6h3_SdQ_RVpwcQ9UypVXiltsNBw4*

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday AND Sunday programs Memorial Day to Labor Day



REVOLUTIONARY HOMESTEAD
MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
FREE PROGRAMS CELEBRATING FARM LIFE IN 1775





1775: Harvest on the Homestead
Saturday, October 18th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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Kori Taber, *Programs and Farmstead Manager*, visit@cimlg.org
Amelia Craven, Mikaela Mummert, Alex Tomlinson, *Visitor Experience Team Member*, team@cimlg.org
Joslyn Loss, *Nature and Conservation (Forestry)*, Ellen Hake, *Nature and Conservation (Wetlands Ecology)*

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Be a part of our history: Your Membership support allows us to continue in our mission!
CI Membership runs on a ‘Valid through 12 month cycle’, so whenever you renew you will receive a full year of benefits

Annual Membership and Additional Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Newsletter Format Preference, Email or Printed: _____

Student: \$10

Individual: \$25

Family: \$35

Patron: \$125

Corporate: \$200

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Membership Level: _____

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Make Checks Payable to The Conococheague Institute, 12995 Bain Road,
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Thank you!

I support the Conococheague Institute because: _____

I have included CI in my Estate Plans (*check here*) ☐

I would like more information about Funded Projects and Sponsorships (*check here*) ☐

Funded Project for your Donation: _____