



### Mission Statement

The mission of SRA is to help sustain the natural beauty of the Riceville Valley while supporting a sense of community.

# Riceville Advocate

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### Upcoming Event - Celebrate Riceville!



On October 17<sup>th</sup> SRA will be coordinating an event to celebrate our community. You are invited to join your neighbors at the Riceville Community Center for an afternoon of fun. There will be exhibits of

historical artifacts, demonstrations from local crafts-people, a community conversation about Riceville,

music and dancing and lots of door prizes. The event is free, but we ask that you bring finger food to share. Drinks will be provided.

Last year our fall event focused on the heritage of Riceville. This year we will continue to tell the story of Riceville by inviting residents to share in a conversation concerning what we value about Riceville and what we dream of for the future.

- 1:00 – 2:00 Craft demos, exhibits & visiting
- 2:00 – 2:30 Information & announcements
- 2:30 – 3:30 Riceville “Visioning Conversations”  
Craft activities for kids 5-11
- 3:30 – 5:00 Door prizes, food, music, dancing, craft demos, exhibits & visiting

Please share this information with your neighbors and invite them to participate. There is a flier under both “Events” and “Bulletin Board” on the website that you may print and distribute. For more information contact Jeanie Martin, 296-0064, [jeanie@main.nc.us](mailto:jeanie@main.nc.us)

### PhotoVoice Project

See the website under both “Events” and “Bulletin Board” to find out about and sign up to participate in this new, exciting community photo project, “A Week in the Life of Riceville, October 17-24, 2009.” Don’t delay. The number of participants is limited.

## Nature Corner – Jeanie Martin The Colors of Fall

Riceville is blessed with mixed hardwoods trees that bring beautiful colors each fall. Did you ever wonder where leaf color comes from? It comes from pigments that are natural substances produced by leaf cells.



Chlorophyll is the most important pigment because it combines with water and carbon dioxide and creates a sugar that the tree uses for food during the growing season. Chlorophyll gives leaves their green color in the spring and summer.

Carotenoids are orange and yellow pigments also produced in the growing season. Anthocyanin brings red and purples and is produced only in autumn. Tannins give us the tans and browns we see in oaks.

As Earth makes its journey around the sun, fall days get shorter in our mountains. Shorter days bring less sunlight and cooler days, which signal to the trees that their time of rest is approaching. Trees respond to the decreasing amount of sunlight by producing less chlorophyll until eventually they stop production altogether. When that happens, the orange and yellow pigments already in the leaves can show through. We see yellows and oranges in our hickory, birch, tulip poplar, sycamore and striped maple trees.

In some years the red fall colors seem more spectacular than in others. The temperature and cloud cover can make a big difference in a tree's red colors from year to year. When a number of warm, sunny autumn days and cool but not freezing nights come one after the other, it's a good year for reds. In the daytime leaves can produce lots of sugar, but the cool night temperatures prevent the sap from flowing through the leaf and into the branches and trunk. This is where anthocyanins help out. They allow the plant to recover nutrients in the leaves before they fall off and help the tree get ready for the next growing season. Anthocyanins give leaves the brilliant shades of red, purple and crimson that we see in sassafras, red maples, dogwoods, black gums and sourwoods. A severe drought can delay the arrival of fall colors by a few weeks. A warm, wet period during fall will lower the brightness, of autumn colors.

Whatever the weather, I hope you venture out on a Riceville trail and enjoy the show.

## Points of View – Bob Sigmon

In a recent conversation, Buncombe County Commission Chairman David Gantt was asked “Are the commissioners open to an area like the Riceville Fire District forming something like a local planning district in cooperation with the county planning office and the commissioners?” Commissioner Gantt responded in the affirmative, noting that such an entity would be important for the proposing and framing of policies for the growth of our area. He added that he sets aside Tuesday evenings to be at local community gatherings in the county and would be happy to come out to talk with us about what we might do together. He also stated that a way of getting something like an area planning district going would be for a wide range of Riceville community folk to come together to develop clear ideas and proposals for what we would like to see in a community-designed plan for the area. Those ideas would then be presented to the commissioners.

The changes likely awaiting our area are many: increase in traffic, ongoing and projected population growth in the county and consequent demand for more housing, coexistence in our rural/suburban-like neighborhoods of newcomers and long-time residents, and pressure on owners of developable land to sell to developers and speculators. Those and other factors suggest that there is some practical utility in folks from the various neighborhoods coming together to explore what it is we would like to see happen in the Riceville area.



We believe the community is ready to name what we see as our community strengths, what we are worried about with respect to current and anticipated changes, and what our dreams/visions/hopes are for the future of this valley—for our families and their families.

*(If you would like to contribute to “Points of View” please send your contributions to [joyce@scenicricevilleadvocates.org](mailto:joyce@scenicricevilleadvocates.org).)*

### Featured Community Artist – Andrea Williams



Andrea Williams, a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, has carved out a rare niche for herself in the world of fine handweaving. While a student in the Professional Crafts Program at Haywood Community College, she became entranced with weaving that goes beyond “something beautiful” and acquires meaning by virtue of its ceremonial use. Today, her main line of work lies in

creating silk-lined, brilliantly colored clerical stoles, marketed primarily at religious conference and retreat centers.

Still, what is one to do with those many lovely leftovers from the stoles . . . or from sampling yarns . . . or from saying “Hmmm, I wonder what would happen if I . . .?” So, as *will* happen with artisans, other product lines have emerged: handwoven notecards and gift tags, handwoven bookmarks labeled with reading quotations, small zippered purses (aka “The Little Pouch”), handwoven 3-D Portraits™ and her latest endeavor, The Stained Glass Mini-Scarf, in which sequins are securely embedded in the weave structure itself.



Andrea has been weaving since 1996 (well, not counting the Indian bead bracelets she wove at age 8 and the potholders that spewed forth endlessly from her little red metal loom!). She created her business—Crystal River Weaving—in 2002 and invites you to visit her website: [www.craftguild.org/crweave](http://www.craftguild.org/crweave). Her artist’s

statement captures the treasured place handweaving now occupies in her life:

*“Simply put, I love to weave. To me, the magic of weaving lies in its essence as both science and art. Nothing but and ingenuity— placement of and under one transforms the of nature’s objects of strength, beauty*



*organization the thoughtful threads over another— most ordinary materials into incredible and meaning.”*

### Business News

Over the past 2 1/2 years, the volunteers who make up the Coordinating Team of Scenic Riceville Advocates, SRA, have worked to find out what the community values so that we can support a sense of community and help sustain the natural beauty of the place we call home. The team thought it was important at this point to explain how SRA has financed these endeavors.

The biggest expense to date was the brochure published in February, 2008. That informational brochure was sent to approximately 1000 property owners in the Upper Riceville Valley. A generous donation of \$1500 from Ruth Burton covered the cost of brochure design, printing and mailing. Thanks to the graphic talents of a team member, the costs were approximately \$1100, which was minimal for a project of that size.

Two early donations of \$300 provided additional seed money that allowed us to continue with other activities. Those have included: a PO Box for mail, business cards Heritage Day expenses, tables for the Tailgate Market, the hosting of the SRA website, incorporation of SRA’s



non-profit status with the NC Secretary of State and miscellaneous costs associated with educational programs.

During 2009, people have contributed what they can at our educational activities and at the SRA table at the Tailgate Market. The current SRA account balance is \$445.35.

At this time, SRA cannot provide tax-deductible receipts for donations, as a 501(c)3 designation is required to do that. The cost of applying for the 501(c)3 is above \$500. If SRA is going to move forward, this seems to be the next step. In addition, costs related to maintaining the website, providing programs, and printing and mailing materials continue to deplete the SRA account. If you would like to help us with these expenses, please send a check made out to Scenic Riceville Advocates. The address is Scenic Riceville Advocates, P.O. Box 9003, Asheville, NC 28815-0003

### Historical Note



Bethel Methodist Church has changed a lot over the years. Land for the church was deeded in 1887 by Joseph A. Glass and his wife “for the location of a house of worship for the people called Methodist in our valley.” They gave two acres of land for a church and cemetery. At the time three churches

served the religious needs of the area: Berea Baptist Church, College Hill Presbyterian Church (now called Riceville Presbyterian Church), and Davidson’s Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South (located on land above the present farm at Warren Wilson College). In 1923 the first Bethel church building burned. It was a total loss. Funds were raised for another building. The current church was first used in 1925, although the inside of the building was not finished. After the fire and until the new building was completed, church meetings and Sunday school were held in Brush Hill School, the local school located across the road from Jack Rice’s home. In 1941 new classrooms were added to the former church building. Construction of a parsonage was started in the winter of 1947. Ground was broken for the present Educational Building on May 20, 1957, and the building was put to use in the spring of 1959. A building committee was formed in August 1976 to plan for a new parsonage. It was completed and dedicated October 5, 1979. *(SRA gives heartfelt thanks to John Weakly for his generosity in sharing photos for our website as well as photos and notes for the historical notes section in this and in the July Riceville Advocate issue.)*

### Land Tips

#### Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program is available to private landowners in N.C. and provides interested landowners with the means to develop a forest management plan based on their goals and objectives for their property. The program is administered locally by the N.C. Forest Service, with assistance from other agencies such as the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service and N.C. Cooperative Extension Service. For more information contact your County Ranger on the Division of Forest Resources web site [http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/contacts/contacts\\_main.htm](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/contacts/contacts_main.htm).

#### Contributor Photos

Several photos were taken and shared with us by Sadhvi Gantenbein. Here are two out of the many:



End of Summer Zinnias

and Sonny Rooster.



For more photos and information check out the SRA website [www.scenicricevilleadvocates.org](http://www.scenicricevilleadvocates.org).

The Riceville Advocate is a community-based, collaborative newsletter edited by SRA. Story content represents the work of the individual contributors. Submissions are encouraged. Submissions accepted for publication may be edited for length and form.