



FOS Deeds & Needs

The Latest News from Friends of Onancock School – November 2008 – Number 3

For Your Calendar

- The **Master Naturalists** will have two work days in November – Monday the 3rd and Monday the 10th. Come out and help build the nature walk along the creek (see also Deeds, below). For more information, call **Donna Ware** at 787-7845.
- **Dan Lawrence Studio** (Rm 103), **Dragonfly Studio Gallery**, **Glass Expressions Stained Glass** (Rm 106) and **Great Stuff Quilt & Arts Studio** (Rms 104 & 105) will be open for Onancock's First Friday (5-8 pm, evening of November 7th). Dan Lawrence will have a new exhibit "Light, hallways, windows, doors, etc." and Dragonfly will host local potter **Elizabeth Hunt**, who will demonstrate Raku firing (5-6 pm).
- **Friends of Onancock School** will hold a **public meeting** on Thursday, November 20th. School tours begin at 6:30 pm and a progress report is at 7:00 pm. Mr. **Art K. Fisher** will speak on "Oddities of the Eastern Shore" followed by a panel discussion with FOS board members and current tenants.
- **Sandy Manter** and friends are hosting Onancock Traditional Music Sessions of Irish, bluegrass, and old timey music on acoustic instruments (fiddle, mandolin, guitar, etc.), every third Friday at 7 pm in Rm 113. Players of all abilities are welcome to join the next session on November 21st. For more info, visit www.onancocksession.wordpress.com.
- The Onancock Business and Civic Association's **Christmas House Tour** takes place from 2-6 pm on Saturday, December 13th. Onancock School will be the shuttle bus and ticket headquarters and several of our tenants are expected to be open that afternoon.

Deeds

- The Master Naturalists, under the leadership of **Donna Ware**, have been tackling some big fallen trees along Onancock Creek as they continue to expand the nature walk. In the adjacent photo, the crew of **John Miller** (left, all the way from Cape Charles), **Will Cumming**, and Donna take a break.



- **Gerald Davis** and **Bache Parks** have redecked and painted the First Grade porch, and it looks great. This brings to three the number of porches that have been spruced up this year.
- **Terry** and **Bobby Swain** recently donated a pop-up tent with a new cover to keep the sun and rain off our hard working volunteers.
- After years of procrastinating, **Haydon Rochester** went through his numerous old tool boxes and combined the results with a \$2

auction toolbox to produce a tool kit for the school. Flashlights are still needed. If you've got one to donate, call Haydon at 787-2097.

- **Trunk or Treat**, the Onancock Baptist Church's Halloween event for kids, was a big hit this October 31st. More than 150 little ones and their parents came out to trick or treat safely on school grounds (see photos).



Needs

- With more than 20,000 square feet of interior space, mainly constructed in the 1920s, the school building offers many opportunities for handymen/women. If you would like to help change light bulbs, clean up trash, diagnose and fix minor plumbing problems, paint, or otherwise demonstrate your handyman skills, please call **Haydon Rochester** at **787-2097** or **Gerald Davis** at **787-4416**.
- And, as always, if you can donate money to assist us with our heating, electric, and groundskeeping bills, please send a check to **Friends of Onancock School, P.O. Box 467, Onancock, VA 23417**. Contributions are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Board Meeting Report

A committee of eight board members recently completed reviewing proposals from six design firms that responded to the FOS request for proposals. Of these, two of the larger firms and one smaller one were clearly superior to the remaining three. The three leading companies will be asked to provide clarifying information in follow-up interviews scheduled for the first two weeks of November, and then the board will select a winner.

FOS expects that the winning firm will be able to clarify our options for renovation of the school buildings and grounds to maximize their value to the community. The process, which is likely to take at least a year, will end with a clear plan for the future that we can use to guide decision making and help us prioritize our actions and related fund raising.

Prior to the October 23rd board meeting, the board met with several of our current tenants to discuss their needs and to critique draft guidelines for use of the property. The guidelines, which cover such topics as parking, security, heating and air conditioning, and trash removal, will be finalized in November. Many of the points in the guidelines will be summarized in the form of signs to be posted at various places on school property for the benefit of casual users as well as tenants.

Other topics discussed at the board meeting were plans for the general meeting (Nov. 20th) and Christmas House Tour (Dec 13th).

Subscription Information

FOS Deeds & Needs is an **E-MAIL** newsletter of the Friends of Onancock School. It is also posted on the FOS website at <http://www.onancockschool.org/>. E-mail reports of your deeds and needs to Haydon Rochester at hrjr2@verizon.net. Be sure to include all relevant dates, contact info, number of participants, and other details. To **subscribe** or **unsubscribe**, send an e-mail to info@onancockschool.org. Please include your name, postal address, phone number, and class year if you're an alum of Onancock School. Unfortunately, we cannot offer a printed, postal mail version of FOS Deeds & Needs at this time.