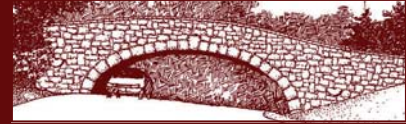


Thomas Jefferson Parkway Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1

WINTER 2007

The Thomas Jefferson Parkway is a 237-acre linear park that protects the entrance corridor to Monticello along Route 53. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation constructed, owns, and manages this privately owned but public park, which includes the two-mile Saunders-Monticello Trail and Kemper Park, for visitors to Monticello and the citizens of Central Virginia.

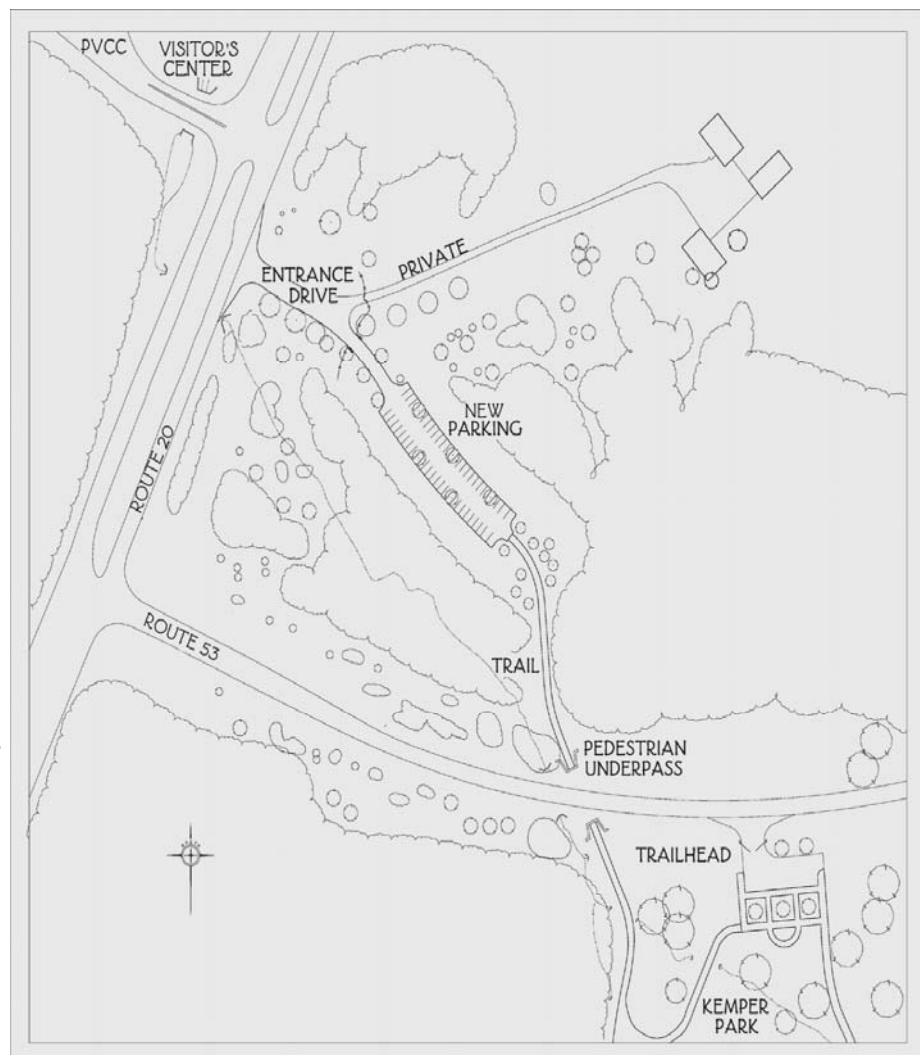
Construction Ahead for Blue Ridge Overflow Parking

We anticipate beginning construction of the long-awaited 50-car Parkway Overflow Parking Lot within the next month. Albemarle County has approved the Thomas Jefferson Foundation's Special Use Permit and Site Plan, Monticello has signed a licensing agreement with The University of Virginia Foundation authorizing the use of the property for patrons of Saunders-Monticello Trail, and a local firm, A.G. Dillard is signed on for the actual construction. Approvals have also been obtained from VDOT, the Albemarle County Architectural Review Board, and other County regulatory agencies. Construction is scheduled to take two months, and we're hopeful the Overflow Lot will be completed by April, 2007.

The lot, accessible by cars only from Route 20, will be sited in a lightly wooded area some 200 yards from the pedestrian culvert under Route 53. Trail users will drive to this lot when the Trailhead lot is full; turning around in the current lot and returning to Route 20, where the driveway entrance to the new lot will be located. This will extend Saunders-Monticello Trail by about .3 mile.

Although the transition to the overflow lot might be awkward for Parkway visitors accustomed to parking in the Trailhead Lot, the adjacent spillover lots, or along Route 53, the Blue Ridge Overflow Lot is the only

legitimate solution to our parking problem. Bonuses include more comfortable parking, a longer trail, and a majestic Osage Orange tree that will grace the lower edge of the new lot.



Rebeccah Joyce Joins Parkway Staff



Rebeccah Joyce joined the Parkway staff as Assistant Manager in 2006. A westerner for most of her life, she attended the University of New Mexico for 2 ½ years before finding her way to Boulder, Colorado. Rebeccah studied medicinal herbalism at the Rocky Mountain Center for Botanical Studies while in Boulder. Always a plant lover, Rebeccah has held many positions in the “green field.” Hoping to learn about growing grapes and eastern flora, Rebeccah recently moved to Charlottesville from her mountain-top home at 8600 feet. The daughter of two craftspeople, Rebeccah has developed many hobbies and is an

avid hiker. If given the time, she enjoys letting the fiber artist in her out to play with quilting, spinning, and knitting.

Rebeccah is involved in the daily maintenance of Kemper Park and Saunders-Monticello Trail: mowing grass, pruning trees, repairing trails, and greeting visitors. She has also been working on documenting the native tree and shrub plantings in Kemper Park. She enjoys the beauty of Kemper Park early in the morning. “There is nothing more peaceful and majestic than the towering trees and a walk through Secluded Farm in the

The native Piedmont forest provides muted and subtle beauty in the winter: the flaking bark of a white oak, the enormous dormant leaf buds of a mockernut hickory, the architectural silhouettes of oaks, hickories, and poplars, the dappled brown of the forest floor. An exceptional vibrant display, however, is the profusion of bright scarlet berries on the winterberry holly, *Ilex verticillata*, which is planted heavily around the edges of the pond in Kemper Park. The winterberry is a slow growing, deciduous shrub that, when mature, stands about 6 to 15 feet tall, often forming multi-stemmed clumps. The spectacular red

berries ripen in late summer and persist on the plant into the dark and gray winter months, hence the source of the common name, “winterberry.” Thomas Jefferson exclaimed to Philadelphia plantsman, William Hamilton, in 1808 that “the swamps in this neighborhood [outside Washington, D.C.] are now red with this berry” and he mentions procuring and planting them for the landscape at Monticello in the same letter. An excellent plant for a mass effect in a waterside planting, winterberry prospers in wet, acidic soil and partial shade to full sun. Both male and female plants are required to produce the red berries and so should be planted together. Many horticultural cul-

tivars are available that provide more certain fruiting, variations in berry color, and more compact growth habits than the wild shrub.



Secluded Farm Expands Parkway Trails

Secluded Farm is a 150-acre natural area just south of Kemper Park that is now open to Parkway trail users. Jason Stevens and his staff, with the assistance of the APO service fraternity at the University of Virginia, cleared two miles of mowed trails through mostly abandoned grasslands. The Secluded Trails, organized around a large $\frac{3}{4}$ mile loop at the south end of the property, are ideal for trail running and walking. The expansiveness and solitude of the landscape make the trails most suitable for dog walking.

The Secluded trails offer a pleasing contrast to the groomed and manicured Saunders-Monticello trail. The trails are quieter, more removed from the vehicular traffic of Route 53 and the steady procession of Parkway patrons. They're warmer and sunnier, especially in the winter, open to the sky and sloped for a southern exposure. White-tail deer are omnipresent and the abandoned grasslands provide a home for a

variety of bird species, White-throated Sparrows, eastern Bluebirds and Indigo Buntings. The Secluded trails skirt picturesque groves of poplar and oak, fine individual specimen trees of walnut, persimmon, and honey locust, and a happy variety of textured landscapes. The vistas along these mowed trails are always chang-

Soil and Water Conservation District under the stipulation that it be maintained in a "state of nature." Monticello, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, now leases the property from the ACSWCD under the same understanding. Please stay on the mowed paths, and respect the property and privacy of the residents of Secluded Farm.



ing, but the dramatic backdrop of Carter's Mountain is ever-present. Aggressive, sun-loving plants – wing-stem sunflower, Indian currant, Russian olive, goldenrod – provide seasonal displays of contrasting foliage, autumn fruit, winter seedpods, and the muted flowers of a Piedmont grassland.

Secluded Farm was decided by Clara and John A. Smart to the Albemarle County

Access to the Secluded Farm trails has probably limited their use. From the Trailhead Parking Area, one should follow the right-hand gravel trail just past the "baby pond on the right, then look to your right for a mowed path that goes uphill into a woodland of young pines. A woodchip trail will then lead into the Secluded pathways.

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON PARKWAY NEWSLETTER

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Monticello



Receive the Parkway Newsletter Electronically

Please send your e-mail address to parkway@monticello.org, or call 984-9877, and we'll send you the newsletter, as well as other news of Monticello upcoming events.

The purpose of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway Newsletter is to clarify rules and regulations, bring visitors up to date on new initiatives, interpret the natural and cultural history of the Parkway, establish the connection between the Parkway and both Thomas Jefferson and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, and develop a community of Parkway visitors for a future "Friends" group of supporters.

PALMER WOODLAND THEATER

The Woodland Theater is always available for small, informal events, classes, or workshops. Please let Jason Stevens know if you're interested in reserving it at 984-9877.

Kemper Park Hours

Kemper Park, Saunders-Monticello Trail, and the Trailhead Parking Area are open sunrise to sunset. This regulation, imperative for the security of the Parkway, has been increasingly violated. More and more Parkway users have ignored this rule, leaving their cars in the lot well after sunset. The burden on Monticello's Security staff to enforce this rule has become so onerous that we've begun issuing warnings to night-time parkers, with the threat to tow away repeat violators. Although we all realize the days are too short in the winter, and there's never enough sunlight to enjoy the full glory of a summer evening, we feel obligated to set these limits on Parkway usage. Please help us by respecting this necessary rule.