

Event Sponsors

Piedmont Environmental Council

The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) was founded in 1972 to promote and protect the Virginia Piedmont's rural economy, natural resources, history and beauty. Headquartered in Warrenton, VA, we have offices throughout a nine county region that includes Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Loudoun, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties. For more information, visit www.pecva.org

Rappahannock Historical Society

The Rappahannock Historical Society (RHS) was founded in 1965 to collect, preserve, interpret & disseminate the unique history and heritage of Rappahannock County. RHS is widely recognized as one of the premiere county historical societies in the area through unrivaled collections, innovative, dynamic programming, imaginative leadership and a general commitment to excellence in fulfilling our mission. RHS is headquartered in Washington, VA. RHS welcomes all persons interested in the county history.

PEC and RHS would like to express their appreciation to the following individuals for their contributions and help making this event possible: Wayne Baldwin, Jean Morris, Ruth Kyger, Clay & Carol Gaunt, Joy Sloane, Jim Lillard, Evergreen Shade, Madeleine MacNeil, Robert Lee Smith, Trail Guide Volunteers, and the Boy Scouts of Troop #36.

Hiking Options via Shuttle

Shuttle is required for all hiking opportunities below. Event parking is on private property and only accessible for today (April 11th)

Trail Stop #1: Savilla Harrell Home Site

Hike 0.25 miles along Thornton River Lower Trail from shuttle drop off on Hull School Road. Total 0.5 miles, out and back. Home site marked by raised stone foundation, boxwoods, and many daffodils. Harrell spring is just to the west of the home site.

Trail Stop #2: Joe Billy & Annie Bowen Property

Hike 0.9 miles along Thornton River Lower Trail from shuttle drop off on Hull School Road. Total 1.9 miles, out and back. Site marks the spot of the Bowen ice pond, where the family had ice provided all year long.

Trail Stop #3: Hull School Site

Hike 1.45 miles from shuttle drop off on Hull School Road. Total 2.9 miles, out and back. The Hull School was the main school for children that lived nearby. The Bowen Family boasted a 18-acre orchard nearby.

Trail Stop #4: Dr. James Kelly's Home Site

Hike 1.0 miles from shuttle drop off at Piney Branch trailhead. Total 2.0 miles, out and back. Pass by numerous former homesteads and ruins of a mill. James Kelly's home site stood on a knoll above the river.

Other Sites of Interest

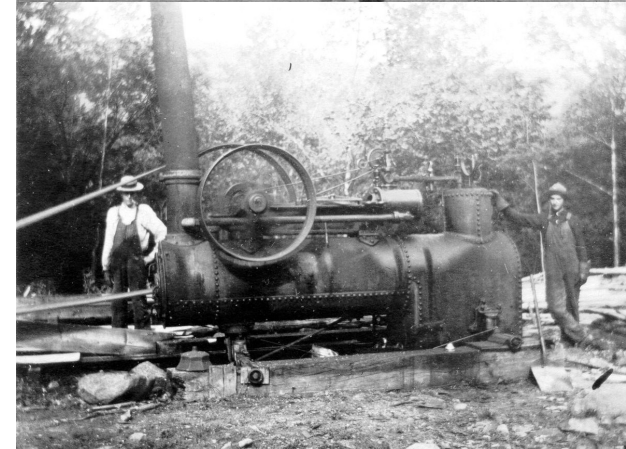
See map on reverse for location of sites along trail

- A. Rock Walled Spring on north side of trail
- B. Old road leading to Frazier Hollow
- C. Annie & Joe Billy Bowen's Ice Pond
- D. Annie & Joe Billy Bowen home site
- E. Entrance to Bowen property marked by chestnut stump
- F. Rock-walled spring below the trail
- G. Bowen Cemetery
- H. Former home site on Charlie Bowen's property
- I. Stone walls on Charlie Bowen's property
- J. Billy Johnson sawmill site
- K. Old road leading to former home site on Henry Lewis "Billy" Johnson's property
- L. Stone walls on Henry Lewis "Billy" Johnson's property

Take care while hiking to avoid disturbing any historic or archeological sites. They are located within Shenandoah National Park and are protected under the law.

End to End Hike

Begin at Hull School Trail Shuttle Drop off point and follow Lower Thornton River Trail for 1.45 miles. Right onto Hull School Trail and follow for 1.1 miles. Continue straight onto Piney Branch trail and follow for 1.2 miles, leaving the Park boundary and crossing over Piney River. Continue along road through private property for 0.3 miles until you reach Piney Branch Shuttle Stop (look for signs).
Difficulty: Moderate
Length: 4.1 miles



Top: Teacher Sadie Cannon in front of the Hull School.
Bottom: Billy Johnson's sawmill along Piney River.
Photographs courtesy of Rappahannock Historical Society

Rappahannock County's Mountain Heritage

An Open House at the
Thornton Gap
Primitive Baptist Church
Saturday, April 11, 2015

Sponsored by:

Piedmont Environmental Council
Rappahannock Historical Society

