



# PACOLET AREA CONSERVANCY

*saving the places you love*  
since 1989

## NEWS

828-859-5060

info@pacolet.org

www.pacolet.org

September 2016

*“The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others.” -Theodore Roosevelt*

## From the PAC Board President - It's All About Giving...

We always have something we can give. There are many ways you can give to the Pacolet Area Conservancy. Land, time, and money each contribute in different ways to furthering **PAC's mission**: *to protect and conserve natural resources in the Foothills of North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina, with emphasis on the lands and waterways with scenic, ecologic or agricultural significance in the North Pacolet and Green River watersheds.*

The most visible and relevant gift to PAC is land – either a conservation easement (agreement) given by a land-owner or an outright gift of land. PAC now holds 64 conservation easements and owns 25 properties outright. All of those acres are under the permanent protection of PAC and must be monitored each year.



Rebecca Kemp, President of the Board of Directors

A most critical gift is the financial support that fuels the everyday needs of the land trust organization to carry out its mission. Because we live in a generous community which truly values its beautiful mountains, forests, farms, waterways, and greenspaces, PAC is the beneficiary of consistent grass roots financial support; PAC supporters remain steadfast. Donors and sponsors always generate a financial stream big enough to assist with PAC's work.

Donors' long range financial charitable strategies can give PAC's services and programs a big financial boost. This type of gift to PAC is generally a commitment for a future donation which can take the form of IRA proceeds, remainder trusts, and bequests to help ensure the financial wellbeing of PAC as it fulfills its commitment to protecting conserved properties in perpetuity.

It is, however, the time donated by volunteers that is perhaps cherished most by PAC. With a small staff – just one full-time employee and one part-time employee – and our wonderful volunteers, PAC has helped protect nearly 8,700 acres in the mountains and Piedmont of Polk County and the foothills of Upstate South Carolina. PAC's dynamic land protection efforts could not have happened without the help of dedicated volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors and PAC committees, as well as those who have baked cookies, parked cars, cleared trails, donated auction items, and more. The passion this community possesses for its beautiful natural resources is reflected in every permanently protected parcel of land which protects our native flora and fauna; each tree, plant, and trickle of water that runs through our breathtaking countryside.

For everyone at PAC, I'd like to say, "Thank you!"

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kemp, President

## **PAC Officers and Board of Directors**

Rebecca Kemp, *President*  
Renée McDermott, *Vice-President*  
Elizabeth "Dibbit" Lamb, *Secretary*  
Steve King, *Treasurer*

Babs Strickland,  
*Immediate Past President*

Carole Bartol  
Mark Byington  
Jay Davies  
Liz Dicey  
Vard Henry  
Alan Leonard  
Janet Peterson  
Ford Smith

## **PAC Staff**

Pam Torlina, *Director of Stewardship and Land Protection*

Debra Hansborough, *Office Assistant*  
Susan Kelley, *Office Volunteer*  
Gretchen Verbonic, *Office Volunteer*

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*The mission of the Pacolet Area Conservancy is to protect and conserve natural resources in the Foothills of North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina, with emphasis on the lands and waterways with scenic, ecologic or agricultural significance in the North Pacolet and Green River watersheds.*

*PAC has helped protect nearly 8,700 acres of our area's valuable natural resources.*

*PAC holds conservation easements on 64 properties and owns 25 properties. PAC is responsible for monitoring 72 easements annually, 7 of which are held by the state of North Carolina and one which is held by The Nature Conservancy. PAC is a proud member of:*

**Blue Ridge Forever**

**Land Trust Alliance**

**Conservation Trust for North Carolina**

**Carolina Foothills Chamber of Commerce**

## **PAC Announces the Fall Hiking Schedule**



### **Join the Pacolet Area Conservancy for five Friday hikes offered this fall, free of charge.\***

**September 23** – Rainbow Falls, accessed from Jones Gap State Park (part of the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area) in SC. 5-miles, strenuous, out & back \*(\$5 adults; \$3.25 SC seniors). A gorgeous 100' free falling waterfall!

**October 7** – Cedar Rock, at DuPont State Forest. 3-miles, moderate, loop. Gorgeous views of the surrounding mountains right at the onset of autumn!

**October 21** – Lookout Rock, on the grounds of Montreat College. 4.7-miles, moderate/strenuous, loop. Beautiful views of the surrounding mountains in full fall color!

**November 4** – John Rock, in Pisgah National Forest. 5-miles, strenuous, loop. Even more beautiful views of the surrounding mountains still speckled with autumn colors; including a view of Looking Glass Rock.

**November 18** – Glassy Mountain, at Carl Sanburg National Historic Site. Approximately 4-miles, moderate, out & back. After the hike, consider visiting the historic residence (a \$5 fee; \$3 for those 62 & older) & the prize winning goats!

*Participate in the "Hiking Challenge"!  
Complete five hikes and receive a custom bumper sticker acknowledging your accomplishment!*



# Update on the Floristic and Biodiversity Study of Polk County

In 2015, botanist David Campbell began a two-year field study of the plants and animals of Polk County for PAC. Since that time, David has been hard at work in the field gathering data from numerous sites throughout the county. In 2015, he visited thirty-five sites; David is preparing detailed lists of flora and significant fauna observed (not just rare species) and defining community types at these locations where appropriate.

David is excited to report that many new county records have been found. In the southeast quadrant of the county, David has found new sites for Climbing Hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*), a Coastal Plain disjunct species, a new population of Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf (*Hexastylis naniflora*), as well as the exciting discovery of American Snowbell (*Styrax americanus*), another plant common in low areas of the Coastal Plain and far removed from previously known occurrences.



American Snowbell (photo by JK Marlow)

Other exciting finds include Velvet Sedge (*Carex vestita*), previously considered extinct in North Carolina and at the periphery of its range; the only currently known and verifiable site of Wild Ginger (*Asarum acuminatum*) in North Carolina; Thicket Creeper (*Parthenocissus vitacea*), found nowhere else in North Carolina and several hundred miles south of its nearest known occurrence, in Virginia; Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), a species very far to the west of its normal distribution in the Coastal Plain; the only known occurrence of Bent Trillium (*Trillium flexipes*) in the county and one of the few occurrences in the entire state of North Carolina; King's Hairstreak (*Satyrrium kingi*), a butterfly far west of its previously known occurrence and a first for Polk County; and new locations of Whorled Horsebalm (*Collinsonia verticillata*) and Alleghany Spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*), both of which only occur in Polk County and nowhere else in North Carolina, as far as is known. Significant vertebrate species have been identified in the county too, such as Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) and North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*), which will add depth to the final report.

David has also discovered several populations of an unusual Yucca species growing in Polk County and samples have been collected and sent to a lab in South Korea for DNA analysis. Currently genetic analysis has shown that this undescribed species is allied to, but different from, *Yucca filamentosa*! This is very exciting, and we look forward to sharing additional information with you as soon as we can.

Findings of rare flora and fauna are being communicated to the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP), including the very rare False Hellebore (*Veratrum woodii*). When David reported this finding to a botanist that works with the NCNHP, she was thrilled that David found the *Veratrum woodii*. She stated that "this is one of only two known occurrences in the state and by far the most information we have for this population. It hasn't been updated since 1998."

In addition, in order to increase the state record of plants occurring in Polk County, David has submitted approximately 50 herbarium specimens to the UNCC Herbarium, housed at the Dr. James F. Matthews Center for Biodiversity Studies; some duplicate herbarium specimens have also been sent to the UNC Chapel Hill Herbarium.

David is continuing to gather more field data for the final report. After field work has been completed in 2016, data will be compiled and a final report will be assembled in 2017.

Thanks to leads from community members who read and keep up with the "Polk County's Most Wanted" articles that David has written for PAC in the local newspapers, many of these rare species are being found and documented.

All of "Polk County's Most Wanted" can be viewed on the PAC website, [www.pacolet.org](http://www.pacolet.org). Click on the "conservation" tab, scroll down, and click on the "Polk County's Most Wanted" tab. PAC has also created a "Pocket Guide" of "Polk County's Most Wanted" that can be accessed on this page, printed, and taken into the field!

The Polk County Community Foundation (PCCF) awarded PAC a grant which funded the first year of this study.



Dr. James Matthews with the undescribed Yucca species (photo by David Campbell)



False Hellebore (photo by Dan Busemeyer)

# Remaining Nature Education Programs for 2016



## PAC & Walnut Creek Preserve (WCP) Programs

Each month (except December), PAC & WCP offer a Saturday morning program/presentation at the Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center at Walnut Creek Preserve. Programs are free of charge, open to all ages, and begin at 10:30 a.m.



**October 22nd** – Dan Lazar will present on “The Southern Appalachians During the Ice Age.”

During the presentation, Mr. Lazar will discuss the animals and plants that were found in this region twenty thousand years ago. He will also present evidence suggesting the former occurrence of now-extinct species such as Jefferson’s Ground Sloth and the American Mastodon. The presentation will show images depicting ice age species still surviving in our Southern Mountains.



**November 5th** – Denise Furr, an Adjunct Curator of Malacology (Mollusks) at the Schiele Museum of Natural History, will present a program on “The Secret Lives of Snails.”

Join an exploratory session on the most overlooked animals in the forest. Snails do so much for us, yet no one seems to know much about them or pay them much attention. Come learn about the strange habits of snails and slugs and, weather permitting, take a short walk in the preserve to see where they live. The program includes a power point presentation and a close up look at the live animals.

*PAC/WCP programs are made possible, in part, by a grant from Mary Merritt and Bob and Babs Strickland.*

## PAC & Landrum Library Programs

In 2016, PAC began offering free educational programs at the Landrum Library! To date, PAC has provided six programs that were attended by over 260 people – adults and children!



The final PAC/Landrum Library program, for 2016, will take place on:

**September 27th** – Landscape Architect, Mark Byington will be presenting, “The Nature of Landscape,” at the Landrum Library at 6:30 p.m.!

Mark Byington will discuss the residential landscape and its place in natural ecosystems. Reflecting on patterns that have defined home landscapes over the past century, Mark will illustrate how the landscapes of today are so often disconnected with naturally occurring ecosystems, and he will offer methods to help bridge that gap. Presenting the case for embracing new trends in garden design, and focusing on sustainable design and management practices, Mark will present a “rosy” picture for a greener future.

*The PAC/Landrum Library programs are made possible thanks to a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation.*



**“Nature is man’s teacher. She unfolds her treasure to his search, unseals his eye, illumines his mind, and purifies his heart; an influence breathes from all the sights and sounds of her existence.”**

**-Alfred Billings Street**

# Thanks to our Wonderful Volunteers, so far, in 2016!

Bob & Nancy Andrews  
Chris & Carol Bartol  
Steve Bardos  
Jay Barnes  
Whitney Blake  
Mark Byington  
David Campbell  
Edith Castello  
Jay Davies  
Dody Davis  
Roger Dehnel  
Mathilde DelMond  
Don & Liz Dicey  
Dan Dworkin  
Pat Ferullo  
Gail Gardner  
Rainey Greaves  
Vard Henry  
Kent Holden  
Melinda Holland  
Ron Katalinich  
Susan Kelley  
Rebecca Kemp  
Steve & Marie King  
Carrie Knox  
Dibbit Lamb  
John & Johanna Lawler  
Alan & Susan Leonard  
Tryon Lindabury  
Steve Marlow  
Dave Mathern, former Polk County  
Recreation Trails Coordinator  
Tom Mathern  
Dr. James Matthews  
Mark & Carol McCall  
Renée McDermott  
Greg Miner  
Dave Mullen  
Larry & Carol Newton  
Gerald Pack  
Susan Penfold



Hands of Change Youth Service Group partnered with PAC to remove trash & litter from a PAC owned property/preserve. The group did a great job & made a huge difference!



PAC & Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy teamed up to remove Kudzu on PAC's Norman Wilder Forest Preserve. PAC is so thankful for the additional help!



Boy Scout Troop 150 worked with PAC to pull English Ivy (& other non-native & invasive plants) from the PAC protected Norman Wilder Forest! This was a service project for the Boy Scouts, & PAC is so grateful for their help!

Janet Peterson  
Larry & Alex Poe  
Roberta Ratterree  
Brian Rogers, Polk County  
Ranger with the North Carolina  
Forest Service  
Don Schlegel  
Geneva Shaw  
Vince Shimkus  
Ford Smith  
Ben Stockdale  
Bob & Babs Strickland  
Bob Tobey  
Lois Torlina  
Bill & Lynn Ulrey  
Gretchen Verbonic  
Keith Vigiletta  
Manfred Walter  
Molly Watson

Officer Feagan (Columbus  
Police Department) & the  
Columbus Police Department  
Explorer Post: Daniel Smith,  
Matthew Logan, & Jordan  
Holdcroft  
AmeriCorp Project Conserve:  
Sarah Coury, Laura Evans,  
Kristen Lee, Chelsea Rath, &  
Ansley Roberts  
Hands of Change, & leaders  
Lance Smith & Doug Lyon  
Boy Scout troop 150, &  
leaders Tim & Lori Nichols  
Brownie Girl Scout Troop 1819,  
& leader Lori Nichols

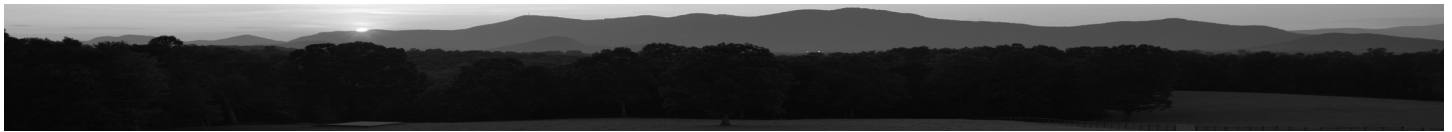
*Please forgive us if we failed  
to mention you!  
We are extremely grateful to all  
of our wonderful volunteers!*

*Volunteers Make the World a Much Better Place!*

*Would you like to join our volunteers?  
We can put you to work!*

Give us a call at (828)859-5060  
or visit our website to fill out a volunteer form!

## PAC's "For Land's Sake!" fall fundraiser



The annual "For Land's Sake!" fall fundraiser was held at the home of Jim and Ann Troppmann on September 9th, 2016. It was a beautiful, sunny, and warm September evening. Guests were greeted with PAC's signature drink, the Oliver, then they had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items and mingle over hors d'oeuvres with beer and wine, all while overlooking the beautiful setting at Fox Knoll Farm, which offered a stunning sunset for participants to enjoy!

As the sun was setting, a fabulous meal, catered by Pat Strother, was served and followed by an array of desserts made by PAC board members and staff.

Thank you to Jim and Ann Troppmann for opening their lovely home to PAC and our guests and also to those of you that sponsored, donated, attended, and volunteered for the event!

Thanks to all of **YOU** the event was a huge success, and proceeds from the event help PAC continue to "save the places you love!"

Special thanks to the following for donating the silent auction items: Carole Bartol, Condar, Pat Ferullo, Frederick's Fine Jewelry, Green River Frame Shop and Gallery, Hare and Hound, Heartwood Gallery, Hensons' Inc., Carol Beth Icard, Monica Jones, Dibbit Lamb, Mark and Carol McCall, Susan Penfold, Janet Peterson, The Orchard Inn, The Purple Onion, Stone Soup, Pat Strother, Wendy Thomas, Pam Torlina, Tryon Backdoor Distillery, Tryon Concert Association, and Sue Zoole.

The Fox Knoll Farm property is protected by a voluntary conservation easement, ensuring watershed and habitat protection for numerous native species of flora and fauna.



Bill & Tammy Coleman with board member, Steve King enjoying spirits, friendship, & beautiful weather on the Troppmann's back porch.



PAC's director of stewardship & land protection, Pam Torlina, with board member, Carole Bartol.



Larry Wassong & Manfred Walter enjoying the gorgeous view at Fox Knoll Farm.



Caterer, Pat Strother & one of her assistants, Anna Marie Kuether.



Guests enjoying the delicious meal & spectacular view.



Connie Lomax & Dot Moyer enjoying the pool & the company of Bill Moyer.



### **Thanks to our sponsors!**

*Wendy Cochran, Jim & Renée McDermott, Larry Wassong, Chris & Carole Bartol, John & Cindy Boyle, Drew & Tara Brannon, Nancy Hudson, Rick & Susan Kelley, Rebecca Kemp, Steve & Marie King, Scott & Gayle Lane, Harry & Martha Love, Walt & Jo Myers, Garry & Jean Snipes, Joe & Denise Boals, Tim & Lucy Brannon, Mark & Linda Byington, Jeff & Sherry Carter, Don & Liz Dicey, Andy Haynes, Vard Henry, Digit & Beth Laughridge, Mark & Carol McCall, Larry & Carol Newton, Parsec Financial, Tory & Janet Peterson, Re/Max Advantage Realty, Tryon Builders, Walker, Wallace, & Emmerson Realty, & Williamson's Paint Center. Thanks also to Costco, Highland Brewing Co., La Boutteille, & Thomas Creek Brewery for gifts & discounts of spirits & supplies!*

# You are *saving the places we love*

While every effort is made to be accurate in our list of donations and memberships, some errors and omissions may, regrettably, occur. We apologize and ask you to bring it to our attention by calling our office, 828-859-5060, or writing, info@pacolet.

## Memberships and Donations February 23, 2016 - September 7, 2016

### Watershed Society \$5000 and above

The Bessemer Trust (The Lucky One Foundation)  
Anne Dignazio & Kevin Ramundo  
Bob & Babs Strickland

### River Society \$2500-\$4,999

David & Daryl Nelms

### Lake Society \$1000-\$2,499

Ashworth Financial Group of Wells Fargo  
The Estates of Margaret & William Bennett  
Wendy Cochran  
Steve & Marie King  
Lisa Krolak  
Mary Merritt  
Greg Miner & Linda Knippa  
Jim & Renée McDermott  
Gerald & Betsy Pack  
Ford Smith  
Larry Wassong  
Butch Weaver  
Loti Woods

### Creek Society \$500-\$999

Advanced Wellness Institute  
Chris & Carol Bartol  
John & Cindy Boyle  
Drew & Tara Brannon  
Jay Davies & Zora Rhodes  
Don & Liz Dicey  
Duke Energy  
Vard Henry  
Nancy Hudson  
Rick & Susan Kelley  
Rebecca Kemp  
Scott & Gayle Lane  
Harry & Martha Love  
Walt & Jo Myers  
Nature's Storehouse  
Parsec Financial  
PRO Physical Therapy  
Garry & Jean Snipes  
Tryon Builders, Inc.  
Fred & Belynda Vesper

### Stream Society \$250-\$499

Dalon & Ann Bass  
Joseph & Denise Boals  
Tim & Lucy Brannon  
Mark & Linda Byington  
Jeff & Sherry Carter  
Edward Jones - Jay Geddings  
The Hay Rack  
Andy & Linda Haynes

Bud & Joann Hoffman  
Digit & Beth Laughridge  
Link Medical  
Lee & Connie Lomax  
Malone Coaching  
Main Street Financial  
Mark & Carol McCall  
McFarland Funeral Home  
Mg12  
Larry & Carol Newton  
Tory & Janet Peterson  
RE/MAX Advantage Realty  
Hank & Sandy Sibley  
St. Luke's Hospital  
Tryon Daily Bulletin  
Walker, Wallace & Emerson Realty  
Manfred & Christel Walter  
Williamson's Paint Center

### Tributary Society \$100-\$249

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Axelrod  
Kenneth Bartlett  
Daniel & Sharry Boles  
Larry & Gretchen Boyd  
Lisa Broyles  
Mrs. Robert Bundy  
Jackie Burke  
Phil & Marcia Burrus  
Byington Landscape Architects  
Bill & Tammy Coleman  
Nan Covert  
Margaret B. Davis  
Beranrd & Linda Eislerloh  
Joe & Bonnie Eskridge  
Deborah Fitzgerald  
Bruce Fritz & Elaine Jenkins  
Patricia Gass  
Stanley C. Gibson  
Tom & Vicky Jackson  
Victor Jetton  
Allan W. Keller & Libby Skamfer  
Rebecca P. Kennedy  
Ruediger & Ehrengard Koch  
Elizabeth "Dibbit" Lamb  
Joyce Lamb  
Steve & Jerri Lynne Lamb  
Constance F. Lawrence  
Alan & Susan Leonard  
Mrs. Wolfgang Lonnes  
Martha Lott  
John Meffert & Stephen Cagle  
Bill & Becky McCall  
Bobbie McNutt  
Reed McNutt  
Robert & Carol Meeske  
Dewitt & Betsy Miner  
David & Sue Mullen  
Joseph C. & Alberta Phayer  
William & Roberta Ratterree  
Dr. & Mrs. Milton Ready  
Lennie & Elaine Rizzo  
Bea Rolla  
Beth & Chuck Rounds  
C. R. Stanley  
Gwen Suesse

Jim & Ivy Sumrell  
Randy & Suzy Thrasher  
Bob Tobey and Donna Martin  
Gloria Underwood  
Pamela Vance  
Vines & Stuff  
Judy Warden  
Linda Watts  
Stephanie White  
Brad Whitney  
Werner Zipf & Ellen Harvey-Zipf

### Brook Society \$50-\$99

Erin Alley  
Barie Baker  
Susan Bennett  
Juanita Bruce  
Fred & Madeline Clas  
Gillian Drummond  
David & Robin Edgar  
James Hostetter  
John P. Humphrey  
William B. Jones  
Guenter & Mary Anne Panoscha  
Lawrence & Alex Poe  
John K. Robinson  
Rich Stevenson  
Louise Tidman  
Michael Veatch

### Spring Society \$49 and below

Margaret A. Barry  
Joan Beck  
Edith Bond  
Anne Britton  
Jimmi Buell  
Regina Burgess  
Claire Carey  
Lynette Conrad  
Donald Crawford  
Jeanie Daniel  
Chelsea Darley  
Janice Dorval  
Annie Ewing

Susan C. Fedor  
Charles Ferguson  
Helen Louise Frohlich  
Linda Greensfelder  
Judith Gosser  
Steve & Rennie Habel  
Sandra H. Halbkat  
Steve Hardin  
Stan & Susan Harris  
Linda Holden  
Martine House  
Ron Huntsberger  
Susie Hursey  
Joe & Betty Jackan  
Carolyn Jones  
Michelle Keyes  
Roberta Kulie  
Virginia Leavitt  
Melissa LeRoy  
Linda Lovelace  
Tommy & Tina Melton  
Gretchen Morris  
Cynthia Moore  
Bailey Nager  
Joanie Newman  
Rita Nichols  
Liz Norstrom  
Margie Pankey  
Elise Porter  
Jeremiah Reiner  
Dave & Isabel Rice  
Margaret Rogers  
Dr. Carl Rosenblad  
Jo Rytter  
Pat Salomon  
Mary Sasser  
Donald & Carol Schlegel  
Mary Smith  
Joy Soderquist  
Donna Southworth  
Lisa Stokes  
Katharine H. Taft  
Lois Tirre  
Lois Torlina  
Carol Vosburgh  
Keith Viglietta  
Ron & Donna Ware  
Jackie Weedon

*If you have designated PAC in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may thank you!*

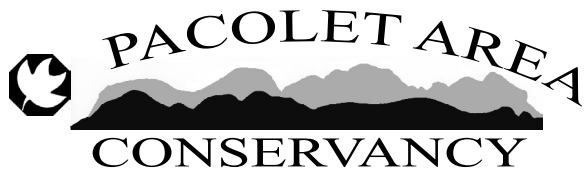
**If you're not a member, please, become a member today!**

#### Membership levels include:

- Watershed Society \$5,000
- River Society \$2,500
- Lake Society \$1,000
- Creek Society \$500
- Stream Society \$250
- Tributary Society \$100
- Brook Society \$50
- Spring Society \$35

*Too, it may be time for your annual membership renewal!*

*If so, please renew today!*



*Saving the places you love*

850 North Trade Street  
Tryon, North Carolina 28782  
828-859-5060

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29306



*Save the Date!*



**Ring in the season by joining PAC at our annual  
*Holiday Party*  
to be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016!**

**More information will be coming soon, so keep an eye out on our  
website, emails, & the local newspapers!**

