

RUSTIC RIDGE ASSOCIATION
President's Report
August 5, 2017

There has been an amazing amount of positive activity this past twelve months in Northfield and on the Rustic Ridge. The most significant event was the announcement in early February by the National Christian Foundation ("NCF") that it had given the core part of the Northfield campus to Thomas Aquinas College ("TAC") of Santa Paula, CA to create a four year co-ed Great Books College. And if that wasn't great enough, the NCF announced the same day that it gave The Moody Center the property on either side of Moody Street previously announced in August 2016, plus Hibbard Hall, Betsey Moody Center and the Auditorium. Since then, there has been a tremendous outreach by the NCF, the Moody Center and TAC to the town and others interested in the welfare and future of the campus and a reciprocal welcome to these organizations. They have held receptions, celebrations and tours, and shared plans for the future. The C.S. Lewis Study Center, adjacent to the Campus, has sponsored a Summer Seminar Series with seminars on C.S. Lewis and the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. The future is bright for the campus, Northfield and the Ridge. Our Ridge community was founded over 100 years ago primarily as an extension of the conferences of D.L. Moody and we are all excited to see his legacy continue with these inspiring organizations dedicated to education at all levels. Although many people have worked tirelessly to achieve these most positive developments, special thanks go to Emmitt Mitchell of the NCF, Julia Wiggins of the Moody Center and our own David Powell for their dedicated and inspired work on this for many years.

In the summer of 2016, we had a number of fun and informative activities for our youth and this summer we have built on last year's success. We have already had a "Cottage Crawl" during which 10 cottages were open to tour with historical commentary and light refreshments at each, a tennis round robin, a ping pong tournament, a hike to Pisgah, ghost story telling, a day of arts and crafts, a Fourth of July parade and reception at the Ziegenhagen's, and our annual Lobsterfest with the largest turnout ever. We have many activities still to come with our picnic tonight, and our annual Ridge Sunday service tomorrow at the Trinitarian Congregational Church. It is wonderful to see and hear so much activity on the Ridge, especially hearing the children's voices as they play. Many thanks to Catherine Broadhead for organizing so many activities for the youth and to Barbara Walker for working with her on this important function. And thanks to Jean Bubriski and Barbara for organizing and working hard to make the Cottage Crawl such a great success.

We are well on the way to eradicating the invasive Japanese Knotweed that had invaded our Five-Acre Property. After our Board approved a Ridge Habitat Management plan last year and securing the permission of the Town of Northfield, the environmental firm we hired treated the knotweed. Bob Ziegenhagen will provide more

detailed information on the treatment process and the status of the property in his report today.

We have continued our tradition of giving 10% of our dues income each year to worthy organizations in our Northfield Community. Last year we gave \$330 each to the Food Pantry, the Northfield Business Council and the Northfield Elementary School. This tradition will continue as the Executive Board will meet later this afternoon to select recipient organizations for the coming year.

A personal note of thanks to a wonderful Executive Board and all the Committee chairs. They have done way more than their share this year and have been very generous with their time and talents. If this year has been a success, it is due to their efforts.

We are very lucky to be part of this unique and meaningful community. It's only because of the hard work and dedication of our ancestors that we are stewards of this wonderful place. It is only with the hard work and dedication of each one of us that our community will not only continue but prosper for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha J. Schoonover
President, Rustic Ridge Association