



Historic Staunton River Foundation

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Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Dear Foundation Members, Park Personnel, Patrons, Donors, & Friends,

On behalf of the Historic Staunton River Foundation, I would like to invite you to attend the Foundation's **Annual Meeting** on **Saturday, September 11** to be held in the **Roanoke Station Visitors Center** promptly at **5:00 P.M.**

We will be **dedicating and unveiling the Personalized Bricks** in the **Friendship Garden** (downtown Randolph) and are thankful to all of those who purchased bricks to honor or memorialize friends, family, and ancestors. By attending the dedication and unveiling, you will have a first-hand opportunity to view the garden and the symbolic personalized bricks. This historic **dedication will commence at 5:00 P.M.**

Supper for the Annual Meeting will be available following the dedication; however, in order to feed all those present (members, Park staff, friends, and guests), we are asking **any and all in attendance to bring a covered dish** (vegetable, casserole, salad, bread). As with recent tradition, the **Foundation will furnish beverages, all paper products, and fried chicken and ham.** Supper will begin after the **Blessing of the Food at 6:00 P.M.**

**J. Bruce Cumbie**, Trustee and longtime friend of the Foundation will be our **guest speaker**. His presentation is entitled, "**Building a Scale Model Batteau.**" Cumbie is a native of Charlotte County. He was born and raised on a tobacco farm and currently resides on the same family farm in Scuffletown. He is a 1974 graduate of Randolph-Henry and received his B.S. degree in Agronomy from Virginia Tech and his M.S. in Environmental Studies from Longwood University. He officially retired in 2018 from teaching all manner of science, math, and agriculture. His interests include investigating and interpreting all things historic, both human and natural, and preserving whatever is economically feasible for future generations. His expertise in batteaux started in 1987, when he helped construct a full-sized replica of a tobacco batteau. Most of the trees used in the building of it came off his family farm and the batteau participated in the annual James River Batteau Festival from its maiden voyage in 1987 until 1993 when it was sadly lost due to a storm. He is a longtime volunteer, friend, and supporter of the Foundation since its formation in the mid-90s and in 2019, he returned as a member of the Board of Trustees and is honored that his Confederate ancestor served during the Battle of Staunton River Bridge.

At the conclusion of the dedication of the Brick Garden, the meal and the Batteau presentation, several brief reports from the Board of Trustees and Park Manager will be presented and nominations to the Board of Trustees will be made and considered for approval by the Foundation's membership. I hope you will make plans to attend our Annual Meeting, not only to enjoy good food and fellowship, and become more conscious of the status of *your* Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. If you have any questions, please email **[info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](mailto:info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org)** or phone **434.603.1021**. Please remember to visit our website (**[www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org](http://www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org)**), and I hope to see you at the Park!

Regards,

Darlene Foster  
President