



MENOKIN

A FIELD

A periodic newsletter chronicling the preservation of Menokin Plantation.



The Seldom Scene

SECOND ANNUAL MENOKIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

The rubble will rock again on Sunday May 8 at the second annual Menokin Bluegrass Festival. Headlining this year's event will be the award-winning "The Seldom Scene," one of the most influential bluegrass bands of the last 30 years.

Also appearing will be Grammy nominee "Old School Freight Train," and, back by popular demand from last year, the 2002 Virginia State Bluegrass champions, "Jackass Flats". Also back by popular demand will be the Foundation's newest board member, archaeologist extraordinaire Bill Kelso, playing guitar with "The Gas Money Band".

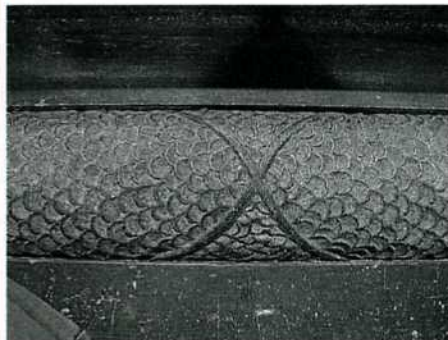
In addition to music and entertainment, there will be plenty of food and beverages. Regional arts and crafts producers will once again exhibit and offer their wares. The Foundation will also offer interpretive tours of the Menokin ruin and hikes to Cat Point Creek. Children can enjoy a variety of games, including a pie-eating contest and an egg toss. Tickets are just \$10 per person in advance and \$12 at the gate. It's Mother's Day -- bring your mother and BOTH of you will get two dollars off the gate ticket price!

For additional information, or to purchase tickets on-line, please visit our website www.menokinbluegrass.com. Our festival committee, chaired by Menokin trustee J. Tayloe Emery, and organized by volunteers Anne Tayloe Neuman and Courtney Tayloe Altaffer, is working diligently to make this a community celebration you won't want to miss!

Spring 2005

HISTORIC WOODWORK RESTORATION

It is called the "best chamber" chimneypiece, and it stands nearly 12 feet high. Architectural historian Edward Chappell described it as a "Georgian essay in woodwork." The chimneypiece has a curved frieze that is meticulously carved with fish scales below a cornice supporting the shelf, and with a large panel of carefully fitted boards overhead. It will be the first conservation and restoration project of Menokin's original interior woodwork that was returned to the Menokin Foundation from the storage barn at Bacon's Castle last year. It will go on exhibit in the King Center library this spring.



The fish scale frieze

Williamsburg conservator Tom Snyder was awarded the job of conservation and restoration of the chimneypiece by the Menokin Woodwork Committee, following its review of several excellent proposals submitted by leading conservators/craftsmen in the Virginia/Maryland region.

"Displaying it on its own, like the piece of fine furniture that it is, will be a unique way to highlight the skill and design that was incorporated into the woodwork by the joiners in 1769," said Snyder.

Snyder is a professional cabinetmaker with an undergraduate degree in art history and a master's degree in art conservation from Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York.



The best chamber chimneypiece

Conservator and Menokin consultant Matt Webster, who supervised the transfer of the woodwork from Bacon's Castle back to Menokin, believes that "the woodwork at Menokin provides a unique experience to look at 18th century construction" and that "the mantel is a wonderful example of the replication of a complex 18th century design in a rural area."

More than 1000 "pieces of Menokin" are stored in the conservation room at the King Center awaiting their turn for attention and reassembly. A future project will involve the reconstruction of the handsome interior stair assemblage. A generous donor has provided the funds for the chimneypiece restoration and the Foundation is now seeking support for the staircase and arched front door conservation projects.



Tom Snyder works on the chimneypiece