

# THANKS, DJ

My life has been shaped by those I admire as long as I remember: as a child I admired my friend who was so confident people were listening that he could put his hands on his hips and casually begin sentences with "Weell..." I also thought the way Fess Parker as Daniel Boone could walk silently over branches was a fine thing to emulate. I've made some adjustments in my pile of heroes since then and have certainly added **Donna Jean Dreyer** to the list.

In trying to say something about Donna Jean, splashy anecdotes and knee slappers don't come to mind, but then stories are carried by people who can tell them and I'm not one of those people.

What I can tell about is this:

A person with uncommon wisdom who has an easy relationship with truth that the rest of us don't always have.

A disarming honesty motivated by a deep compassion; if she has something difficult to say, she sticks with you until long after the shock has worn off.

An ability to distill and refine a complex situation into a well-posed problem.

A person who brings the same fairness and humanity to small choices that she brings to big issues.

A person who holds the center during times of flux and transition.

Donna Jean is simply the best thinker I know, with a way of taking a poetic route to the heart of a matter.

When I began working here I read through file copies of correspondence to get a sense of the place. Many of these letters were written by Donna Jean and I began to look forward to them the same way I would look forward to the next page of the best book. I learned about Donna Jean but also began to understand the soul of Penland.

We've all learned a lot from the way she moves through the world. It was very appropriate that she be part of a crafts school. The skill, imagination and discipline she brought to her many jobs made her a master craftsperson. Though Penland shapes us all, some of us also shape Penland. In Donna Jean, Penland has been shaped again by a force of good will which has warmed our future and we thank her. ✱  
—Dana Moore



Donna Jean Dreyer retired in October after nearly ten years at Penland. During that time her many duties drew on her skills in management, fundraising, writing, editing, public relations, and conflict resolution. She's currently travelling in Europe with her husband, Bill. When they return she plans to spend time gardening and writing. We're sure she won't be idle. Although her retirement was marked by a party at the Gallery, so many people kept track of Penland through Donna Jean's writing in this publication that we thought a word of appreciation here was in order.

# WINTER AT PENLAND

Just before Thanksgiving, the last snowfall of the season hit Penland. In fact, if it weren't for winter, we wouldn't have had to work around another snowstorm. It's a good thing we had to work around another snowstorm for what we bill as *spring* Concentration.

A big job which comes around every year—this year we had 50% enrollment in the auction, upcoming board meeting.

The maintenance crew uses the time to do some work. This year, in addition to the usual maintenance, the Publication Center. The folks who plan the year are enjoying greater efficiency and the Environment (ICE) house, a new home in the Pines.

In the office, new staff and Core Curriculum have been implemented. This is the time when students bring in their regular files. Programming for fall and spring.

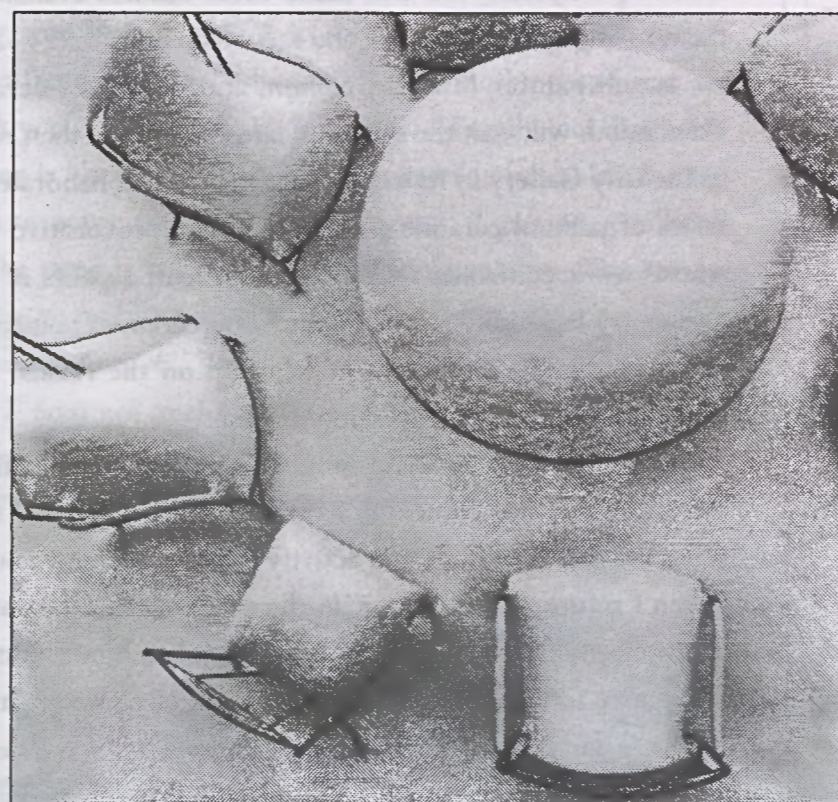
Winter is a time when studio courses are in session. At Penland it's often the best time for a lot of work.

The weather always brings challenges. The city of peace and quiet begins to wear on you and Penland turns into Penland again.



A mid-November snowfall was perfect for trash-bag tobogganists.

Robin Dreyer



How do they expect us to work when the coffee house is closed?

Erika Sanger

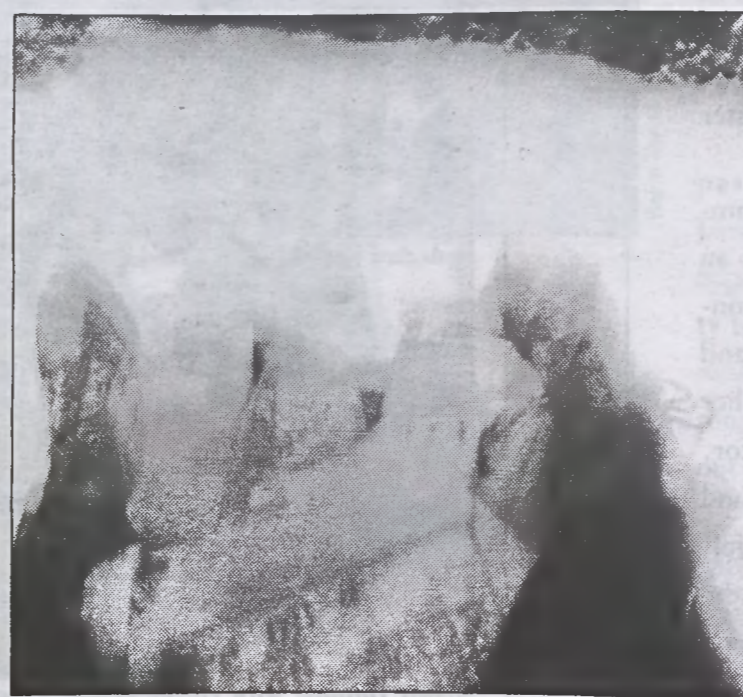


Bringing in the icicle harvest.

Jeff Byrd



Terry Gess working in his workshop.



Driving home from the office.

Dana Moore



Registrar Gregg Johnson on the last day for work/study applications.

Dana Moore