



Press Release

**For more info and photos: Mike Burton or Jackie Crenshaw:
info@sustainfloyd.org; 540-745-7333**

Living Large? Think Small! SustainFloyd Hosting Tiny House Tour and “TINY” Film on Saturday, May 17th

Floyd, Virginia – Some communities offer mansion tours; other cities open historic homes once a year to the public; but Floyd, Virginia, a pace-setter for eco-friendly living, will be the site of the SustainFloyd Tiny House Tour on Saturday, May 17th. The day will culminate with the screening of a new documentary, “TINY: A Story About Living Small,” at the Floyd Country Store at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to take the self-guided driving tour of tiny houses, but tickets will be limited. Maps will be provided. Tour-goers are encouraged to buy tickets well in advance online at www.sustainfloyd.org or at the Floyd Country Store starting May 1st. Film tickets will be sold at the door of the Floyd Country Store, starting at 6 p.m.

The construction of tiny houses has become a social movement in which families are downsizing their living spaces. The typical American home has grown to 2600- square- feet; the small or tiny house is less than 400-square-feet. Tiny houses come in all styles, but they focus on smaller spaces and simplified living. Some owners say a tiny mortgage frees up time for family and other pursuits.

The SustainFloyd Tiny House Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 17th will include the 168-square-foot tiny home of Hari and Karl Berzins, featured on Today, Anderson Cooper , and in Ladies’ Home Journal. This is the first time the Berzins have opened their home for a public tour. The Berzins’ website, www.tinyhousefamily.com offers a five-week online course in building a tiny house for “mortgage-freedom.”

Another tiny house on the tour will be the 316-square-foot home of Ricardo Brown and Christy Pugh. Brown and Pugh wanted a simpler life, so they chose a 10-acre site in the woods of Floyd County and built their tiny house themselves. The cozy home is powered by a 2.15 kW solar electric system installed by Brown, who owns SolShine Energy Alternatives, LLC <http://solshineenergyalternatives.com/>.

More Floyd tiny houses on the tour are Morgan and Amado Ohland’s 12’ by 28’ cabin built on seven acres and the 120-square-foot home of Jim Knapp near downtown Floyd. Finally, tour-goers are invited to visit a farm community of tiny houses at Riverstone Organic Farm in Floyd, with one of the cabins open for visitors. They can also tour a weekend yurt, overlooking the Little River in Floyd. The Riverstone Farm Store will be open too.

Wills Ridge Supply, Inc., Linda DeVito Realty and On the Water are sponsoring the SustainFloyd Tiny House Tour and film.

Many Floyd restaurants, including Oddfella's Cantina & Tapas; The Artist's Table; El Charro; Mickey G's Bistro & Pizzeria; Blue Ridge Restaurant; DJ's Drive In; Pizza Inn ; Subway; and Bootleg BBQ will give a 10% discount on food purchased by ticket-holders during limited hours on tour day, May 17th. The Floyd Country Store will sell box picnic lunches at a 10% discount and have free live lunchtime music.

Tour tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at www.sustainfloyd.org. Advance tickets are also available at the Floyd Country Store. Children 12-years-old and younger are free for the tour. The film will be \$5/person, with children 2-and-under free. Film tickets will be sold at 6 p.m. at the door of the Floyd Country Store on the evening of the May 17th tour.

SustainFloyd is a non-profit organization, which seeks to enhance a rural quality of life by developing regional agriculture, supporting local farmers, preserving farmland environments and creating a strong local food network that will add value to the Floyd community and beyond. To learn more about SustainFloyd and its mission, go to www.sustainfloyd.org.

Details:

What: SustainFloyd Tiny House Tour and film, "TINY: A Story About Living Small"

When: Self-guided driving tours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Film: 6:30 p.m. Doors open for film ticket sales at 6 p.m.

Where: Homes are located throughout Floyd County-maps will be provided. Movie at Floyd Country Store, 206 South Locust St., Floyd

How: Tour: \$15 at www.sustainfloyd.org or the Floyd Country Store; Movie: \$5 at the door