



BELLE GROVE
PLANTATION

June 9, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kristen Laise or Karen Haizlett
540-869-2028
info@bellegrove.org

**Belle Grove Plantation to Host Free Summer Story Times
as part of the Valley Reads Program**

Starting Thursday, June 11, Belle Grove Plantation will offer five, free, summer story times for children. This is one of the ways that Belle Grove is participating in the Valley Reads program with Handley Regional Library.

Valley Reads is an interactive summer reading program with special events, fun activities, and prizes. Participants may register online at <http://read.lva.virginia.gov/> and log in their minutes of reading. They can also earn points and electronic badges by completing activities or games. After reading six hours or 360 minutes, participants are eligible to receive a free book. There will also be prize drawings throughout the summer and at the Finale on August 8. The program is for all ages—adults, teens, and kids. This year's theme is "Read to the Rhythm" and more information, including prizes may be found at www.handleyregional.org.

Belle Grove Plantation is one of the sites where one can register for Valley Reads. It will host free story times each with a special theme on five days throughout the summer:

- Thursday, June 11, 10 a.m. Reading on the Lawn
- Tuesday, June 23, 10 a.m. Reading in the Garden
- Thursday, July 9, 10 a.m. Reading with a Ranger
- Tuesday, July 21, 10 a.m. Reading in the Barn
- Thursday, August 6, 10 a.m. Reading in the Kitchen

The story program will be 45 minutes to an hour and will be held rain or shine. Afterwards, attendees are welcome to enjoy Belle Grove's grounds. At 11:15 a.m. on each story time day will be a tour of Belle Grove's 1797 Manor House and children and students will receive free admission when accompanied by a paying adult. Taking the house tour will also qualify kids to earn an electronic badge through the Valley Reads website. Also at 11:30 a.m. on each story time day, will be a free 11:30 program by the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. Families are encouraged to attend several story times to enjoy the varying themes and programs.

Belle Grove Plantation is a historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and located at 336 Belle Grove Road just south of Middletown, Virginia. It is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m. (closed July 4). Additional information including a list of 2015 special events may be found at www.bellegrove.org and at www.facebook.com/BelleGrove.

Belle Grove is also one of the partners in the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, which has a Visitor Contact Station at 7712 Main Street in Middletown that is open, free of charge seven days a week from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. More information is at www.nps.gov/cebe.

BELLE GROVE PLANTATION
P. O. BOX 537 • MIDDLETOWN, VA 22645
PHONE: 540-869-2028 • FAX: 540-869-9638
www.bellegrove.org