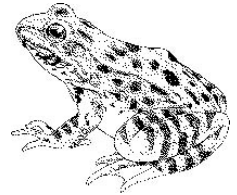




# FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK



JANUARY 2007

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

WEB SITE: <http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org>

## Note From the President

Kudos - FOHMP Board and Membership!

I thought it may be time to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done! It is my great pleasure to work with a Board of Directors as active and dedicated as FOHMP! Collectively we are involved in the following programs and projects:

Birdathon, Used book Sale, Photography contest, FOHMP website, newsletter, T shirt sales, Adopt-a-Highway cleanups, membership, visitors services, interpretive materials, outreach to local schools and community groups, financial and volunteer support of educational and wildlife management projects.

You, as members of FOHMP, are supporting all of these programs and more through your membership fees, donations and as volunteers. All of us are promoting a love for and protection of the natural world, especially this very unique and special place called Huntley Meadows Park.

Our Park manager, Gary Roisum, expressed his feelings about FOHMP as follows: "I have worked closely with the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park since its inception 22 years ago. FOHMP was one of the first Friend's organizations in the Park Authority. Their neverending support of Huntley Meadows Park over the years is truly remarkable. Their commitment to park protection and visitor services is relentless. The park staff is both thankful and proud to have such a genuine friendship with this organization of dedicated volunteers. It is a friendship that will last forever. "

Carry On!

Kathi McNeil

## New Friends of Huntley Meadows Park Lifetime Members

We would like to thank the following new lifetime members for their support of Huntley Meadows Park:

Ana C. Arguelles and Jeff Wneck

Garland C. Black

Larry Cartwright

Ms. E. Rawsthorne

Michael J. Saxton

Suzanne Spector



## Park Manager's Message

The Huntley Meadows Park Central Wetland Restoration project has just begun. The Park Authority entered into a planning/design contract with Burgess & Niple, Inc. to begin the long process of analyzing past and present conditions of the central wetland and developing plans for future management. Expected to take one year, the process will include:

- Development of a comprehensive wetland management plan that will guide design, construction, and long-term management.
- Construction of a water control device on the downstream side of the wetland.
- Removal and disposal of accumulated silt.
- Providing deeper, open water habitat and interconnecting channels to reproduce the diverse types of habitat that existed in the wetland when it formed in the 1970's.
- Encouraging native vegetation to stabilize soils and complete habitat restoration.
- Implementation of a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan to measure success and control exotic invasive species.

The first phase of the project will include a topographical survey, hydrologic/soils analysis, wetland management plan, environmental assessment, public meetings, design and construction plans, necessary permits and water level control structure.

During the past two months the consultant has been gathering and analyzing data on the park's resources. Aerial photography/topographical survey have been conducted and wetland scientists have flown in from northwest United States to meet with park staff and begin planning and design.

I hope to have more progress to report to you in the next FOHMP newsletter. Happy New Year!

Gary Roisum  
Park Manager

## What's happening in Huntley Meadows Park in the winter?

### January

An antifreeze-like substance in frog blood keeps them from freezing.

Cedar waxwings go after persimmon seeds.

Red foxes are courting.

Horned owls are nesting.

Deer drop their antlers.

Hawks are pairing up for breeding season.

### February

Robins start appearing.

Bluebird houses are getting cleaned for the spring season.

Red maples are in flower!

Wood frogs are laying eggs.

Spring peepers begin to call.

Park Staff



## The Virginia Master Naturalist Program

A chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program has recently been established in Fairfax County. The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service. The program is organized into chapters and overseen by statewide committees. The Fairfax Chapter is just getting started, and plans to have its first training class in September 2007. The Master Naturalist Program will be of great interest to members of the Friends of Huntley Meadows because it provides a way to undergo formal training in a wide variety of topics central to a detailed understanding of the natural world – at least Virginia’s corner of it. The basic training course covers the background knowledge and skills that every naturalist needs to have. Each chapter tailors the course to fit its local environment and community, so no two courses are exactly the same.

The Virginia Master Naturalist program is similar to the long established Virginia Master Gardener program in several ways. Both are a combination of training and volunteer service; both are overseen by state agencies and universities; and both require an annual volunteer commitment of 40 to 50 hours.

Extensive information about the Virginia Master Naturalist Program can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/index.html>

The Fairfax Chapter is busily preparing its training programs, and will be ready to go in September. Stay tuned!

Harry Glasgow

## FOHMP Programs of Interest

FOHMP is sponsoring two special presentations in the upcoming months. The Al Gore movie, “An Inconvenient Truth”, will be shown at the HMP visitor center on Sunday, January 28 at 2pm. On Sunday, March 11 at 2pm, Glenda Booth will be presenting a program titled “Botswana’s Okavango Delta and the Nile Crocodile”. In Botswana’s Okavango Delta, a five-million acre papyrus-lined maze of wetlands, rivers, lagoons, channels and islands, the Nile crocodile is the top predator, maintaining nature’s balance and beauty. Glenda Booth will describe her volunteer work assisting scientists from South Africa’s University of Stellenbosch who are studying the distribution, abundance, population, reproductive cycle, diet, and conflict with humans of the Nile crocodile. In addition to the crocodiles, Glenda will discuss other aspects of the natural environment and the challenges of protecting this Ramsar site, an internationally important wetland, in a country of 1.8 million people and 3 million cows. Per and Julia Jartby will show visuals of the area, its flora and fauna, and birds of the delta. The project’s goal is to reduce exploitation of the Nile crocodile and develop a conservation strategy for this unique wetland.

Both programs are free but you must make a reservation. Please call the HMP visitor center at 703 768-2525.

### Dear FOHMP Member:

We want to remind you to please check your mailing label for your membership renewal date. Your dues contribute towards our current projects and our outreach to local schools. You will also be kept informed of important issues concerning the Park. If your membership is due, we would appreciate hearing from you as we don’t want to lose you.

Connie Carpender, Membership Chair

## **Continuation of the Dogue Creek Restoration Project**

In 1999-2000, The Friends of Huntley Meadows joined a partnership of local, state and federal agencies to restore a severely degraded and eroding reach of Dogue Creek using innovative and yet traditional technologies. This 1,000-foot project, known as the Kingstowne I Stream Restoration Project, begins at Castlwellan Drive behind Edison High School. Today, with its gentle meanders and well-vegetated slopes, this section of Dogue Creek is stable and successfully carries major storms; its plants, shrubs and trees are maturing nicely; and it is a beautiful amenity for the community. We never gave up looking for a way to continue the project for the next 2,000 feet, down to the Greendale Golf Course. The stream along this length is quite unstable. The stream banks are eroding and downcutting; several backyards are threatened and a great deal of sediment is going into the ponds on the adjacent Greendale Golf Course. Partly because of the success of Kingstowne I, the Corps of Engineers has approved funding from the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund to move forward with Kingstowne II. Many partners will be working together to make the project a success -- the Kingstowne Residential Owners Corporation, The Nature Conservancy, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairfax County, and interested citizen groups, including, once again, the Friends of Huntley Meadows. We are just now beginning the planning stage for this exciting project. More reports will be published as progress continues.

Diane Hoffman, District Administrator

Harry Glasgow, Associate Director

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

## **Weekend Scout Leader Needed**

Do you want to share your passion for nature with scouts ages 6-12? Do you know someone who does? We are looking for scout leaders available to teach two 90 minute programs between noon and 4 pm, one weekend day a month. This is a paid position and requires training. For more information or to schedule an interview, please call Melissa Gaulding 703-768-2525.

## **Naturalist & Natural Resource Management Internships Available at Huntley Meadows This Summer**

If you wish to gain practical experience in nature center operations and teaching children about the natural world, then the Naturalist Internship may interest you. Those who seek a career in wildlife management or environmental sciences may wish to apply for the park's Natural Resource Management Internship. Both internships are 11 weeks beginning June 4 and ending August 17. Interns work 40 hours a week and receive a stipend of \$2500. To apply please send a resume and letter of intent by March 2, 2007 to Huntley Meadows Park 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22306, attention Carolyn Gamble ([carolyn.gamble@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:carolyn.gamble@fairfaxcounty.gov)) for the Naturalist Internship and attention Dave Lawlor ([dave.lawlor@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dave.lawlor@fairfaxcounty.gov)) for the Natural Resource Management Internship. Call the park at 703-768-2526 for more information.

## **New Equipment Makes a Difference**

A few months ago your Board of Directors voted to spend some of your donations on several large items that have been on the staff wish list for quite a while. About \$2,500. was spent on the following items:

1. Spotting scope and tripod.
2. Large laminator
3. A Wolfe stereomicroscope to replace one that could not be repaired.
4. Portable UV lamp with both UV-A and UV-B bulbs for looking at plants and minerals.
5. A wind-up emergency light and radio.

We also provided a net of \$2,000 for an LCD projector to be used for lectures, etc. in the auditorium.

Needless to say, staff has been very grateful and reports are that all the new equipment is making a difference. Thanks actually go to all of you who so generously support this organization.

Sally Cureton, Treasurer

## **Adopt-a-Highway**

Mark your calendars - the next Lockheed Blvd/Harrison Lane cleanup for our Adopt-a-Highway commitment is on Saturday, March 24. We would like to have at least a dozen volunteers this time so please plan to join us. Meet at the Huntley Meadows Park parking lot by 9 AM and we should be finished by 10:30 AM. Please bring old gloves - bags will be supplied.

On November 18 seven volunteers collected six bags of trash thus preventing all that stuff from ultimately washing into the Park's wetlands. Three students from the Islamic Saudi Academy took an early Metro train from Washington, DC that morning and were met by their teacher so they could participate. What a nice surprise for the three Friends of Huntley Meadows Park members who thought we would be working alone!

Hope to see you on the 24th! Please call 703-768-2525 to let us know you will be there.

## **FOHMP Photos Contest Results**

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park hosted a reception Sunday, December 10 for participants in the third Photography Contest, which has become an annual event. The photos were an excellent representation of life in the park with views of the boardwalk, wetlands, trees, grasses, flowers and wildlife. The juror of the show, Jessie Cohen, staff photographer at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park, was very impressed with the quality of the photographs and regretted that she was unable to attend the reception and speak to the participants.

In the adult division, First Place was awarded to Sayer Seely, Second to Jorja Feldman, Third to John Nolley II, and Honorable Mention to Anne Brink, Curtis A. Gibbens, Angelique Raptakis and Sayer Seely. In the Youth Division, Louis Pardo took First Place, Akexander Sweeney Second, Betsy Slaymaker Third, and Ben Spector Honorable Mention.

This year, two of the Islamic Saudi Academy sixth grade classes submitted entries, and we were able to exhibit one photo from each student. First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention awards were chosen for each class. This was a very exciting project for us and the school, and we sincerely hope that it can be repeated next year.

As usual, we could not hang all of the entries due to the fairly limited wall space in the visitor center auditorium. We were, however, able to display at least one photo for each participant. We hope to see as many wonderful entries next year. Thank you for participating.

The show will remain until February 28. The Friends and Staff of Huntley Meadows congratulate and thank all of the photographers who participated in this event.

Sarah Stromayer

# Beaver Dam - 2006

1. Feb - wetlands full



8. Dec - Looks like it's been a quiet year



2. Early June - water down



7. October - work continues



3. Late June - major flood



6. Late Sept - rebuilding begins



4. Aug - dam destroyed



5. Early Sept - still no dam



It has  
been  
a busy  
year  
for the  
Beavers

## Upcoming Events

### Adults

Saturday, March 3

#### Birding for Beginners

8-11 a.m. Sharpen your bird identification skills with a park naturalist. Meets in the Visitor Center parking lot. Reservations required. \$2.

Saturday, March 3

#### Evening Wildlife Walk

5:30-7 p.m. Explore the Hike/Bike Trail in hopes of discovering owls and American woodcock. Bring optics and a flashlight. Cancelled if rain. Meet at South King's Highway. Reservations required. \$2.

Sunday, March 4

#### The Heron Pool

2-4 p.m. Art show opening and illustrated talk featuring quilted wall hangings of Bolivian birds by artist/biologist Suzanne Vargas. Reservations suggested. FREE

Sunday, April 1

#### Birding for Beginners

8-11 a.m. (See 3/3.) Reservations required. \$2.

Friday, April 20

#### \*Café Cattail

7-9:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing evening applauding our community's talents. Musicians, dancers, and poets are encouraged to share their arts with a nature theme. Reservations required for performers only. FREE

Saturday, April 21

#### \*Spring Birds and Bagels

8-11 a.m. Search for warblers, thrushes, and waterfowl, then recap the sightings over breakfast. Bring optics and field guides. Reservations required. \$6.

Saturday, May 12

#### Birding at South King's Highway

6:30-9:30 a.m. This is the height of neotropical songbird migration. Bring binoculars and field guides. Meets at our S. King's Hwy. entrance. Reservations required. Cancelled if rain. FREE

Saturday, May 19

#### Advanced Birding at South King's Highway

Experienced birders will hike off-trail to look for warblers and other neotropical songbirds. Bring binoculars and field guides. Reservations required. Cancelled if rain. Meet at S. King's Hwy. FREE

Sunday, May 20

#### Birding for Beginners

8-11 a.m. (See 3/3) Reservations required. \$2.



## **Families**

Sunday, March 18

\*Leave It to Beaver

6 years and up, with an adult. 5:15-6:30 p.m. Families will look for signs of beavers, and, if we're lucky, catch a glimpse of these nocturnal engineers. Reservations required. Cancelled if rain. \$5/family.

Wednesday, April 4

\*Swamp Serenade

5 years and up, with an adult. 7:15-8:45 p.m. Listen to the courtship songs of frogs and toads. One flashlight per family is recommended. Cancelled if cold. Reservations required. \$5/family.

Friday, April 20

\*Café Cattail

7-9:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing evening applauding our community's talents. Musicians, dancers, and poets are encouraged to share their arts with a nature theme. Reservations required for performers only. FREE

Saturday, April 28

Wetland Wonders

9 years and up, with an adult. 4-9 p.m. During this in-depth program, see the park from a new perspective – off-trail and after-dark. Check water quality, examine aquatic invertebrates, learn to identify frog calls, and watch bats. Bring your own dinner. Reservations required. \$20.

Sunday, May 6

\*Wetlands Awareness Day

Noon-3p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of wetland interpretation, wildlife presentations, and a Fun Fair for kids. Celebrate the importance of wetlands to wildlife and you! FREE admission, with a modest fee for some activities.

Saturday, May 26

Young Wetland Animals

4-7 year-olds, with an adult. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Spring is bursting with young life! Enjoy a hands-on workshop to learn more about baby animals and their parents, followed by a walk to the wetlands. Reservations required. Cancelled if rain. \$20/family.

Sunday, May 27

Historic Huntley Open House

2-4 p.m. Enjoy this twice-a-year opportunity to visit Historic Huntley, a Federal-style villa built in 1825 for Thomson F. Mason. FREE

## **Children**

Monday, March 12

Young Explorers – Backyard Birds

6-8 year-olds. 3:15-4:30 p.m. Through indoor and outdoor activities, learn more about these backyard visitors. Reservations required. Cancelled if rain. \$3.



Wednesday, March 14

Nature Detectives – Backyard Birds

3-5 year-olds. 10-10:45 a.m. Through story, activity, and a craft, learn more about these backyard visitors. Reservations required. \$5. Program repeats 3/15.

Thursday, March 15

Nature Detectives – Backyard Birds

3-5 year-olds. (See 3/14, above.)

\*Spring Break Camp

Tuesday, April 3-Thursday, April 5

6-8 year-olds. 9-11:30 a.m. The park is waking up from the cold winter: birds are singing, plants are greening up, and amphibians are emerging from hibernation. Experience through nature activities, walks, and crafts at our three-day camp. Reservations required. \$60/child

Monday, April 16

Young Explorers – Frogs

6-8 year-olds. 3:15-4:30 p.m. Through a story and walk learn about these master jumpers and evening singers. Reservations required. Cancelled if rain. \$3.

Wednesday, April 18

Nature Detectives – Frogs

3-5 year-olds. 10-10:45 a.m. Through story, activity, and a craft, learn more about these fascinating animals. Reservations required. \$5.

Thursday, April 19

Nature Detectives – Frogs

3-5 year-olds. (See 4/18, above)

Monday, May 14

Young Explorers – Snakes

6 - 8 year-olds

3:15-4:30 p.m. Through a story and a walk, learn more about these unusual park residents. Reservations required. \$3.

Wednesday, May 16

Nature Detectives – Snakes

3-5 year-olds. 10:00-10:45 a.m. Through story, activity, and a craft, learn more about these unusual park residents. Reservations required. \$5.

Thursday, May 17

Nature Detectives – Snakes

3-5 year-olds. (See 5/16, above.)

\* Sponsored by FOHMP

## "The Heron Pool"

**Quilted Wall Hangings by Suzanne Edwards de Vargas**

**March 4 through April 30**

**Opening reception from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, March 4**

## **NEW!**

### **Nature Walking Club**

**Adults, get in shape and learn more about the park during our multi-week sessions led by a naturalist who also walks marathons!**

**Call 703-768-2525 to reserve your place in one or more of the following:**

**Six Tuesday sessions : 9-10 a.m.  
March 6 - April 10, \$30**

**Six Tuesday sessions: 9-10 a.m.  
April 17 - May 22, \$30**

**Eight Thursday Sessions, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
April 5 - May 24, \$50**

During the opening reception of the "The Heron Pool", Suzanne Edwards de Vargas will lead a tour of lowland, rural Buena Vista, Bolivia through her 20 quilted squares depicting local birdlife. She will tell of personal experiences in Bolivia, what led her to bird-watching, the inspirations behind the collection and the techniques used in her quilting. She will show pictures of natural and cultural interest as she describes the significance of the municipal reserve "Curichi Cuajo."

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### Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

#### Board of Directors:

Kathi McNeil (President)  
Sarah Stromayer (Vice President)  
Glenn Curtis (Secretary)  
Sally Cureton (Treasurer)  
Ken Larsen (Newsletter Editor)  
P.J. Dunn (Web Site Manager)  
Connie Carpender (Membership)  
Harry Glasgow                      Suzanne Lepple  
Andy Higgs                            Marianne Mooney  
Norma Hoffman                      Chuck Studholme  
Ben Jesup



Web address:

Email addresses

General Information:

Membership Info: Connie Carpender

Donations and dues: Sally Cureton

Newsletter Inquiries/submissions: Ken Larsen

Questions For Park Staff

<http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org>

[info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

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[staff@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:staff@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

# Are You A Member?

*Please*

help support Huntley Meadows Park and join

*The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park!*

Become a member of FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK. (FOHMP) and help to protect and preserve the park. Your annual dues (tax deductible) will keep you informed and help support the nature center's programs. Please fill out and mail this application today!

## *Membership Information*

*Note* Our new dues schedule is as follows:

- |              |         |                       |          |
|--------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| ◆ Senior     | \$5.00  | ◆ Family              | \$15.00  |
| ◆ Individual | \$10.00 | ◆ Lifetime Membership | \$150.00 |

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes! I would like to join FRIENDS!**

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to renew my membership. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_.00 annual dues for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership. (*Please make checks payable to FOHMP.*)

Additional \$\_\_\_\_.00 donation enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have some comments and/or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm interested in learning more about volunteering at the Park.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer at the Park.

If you checked that you would like to volunteer, please help us by indicating your areas of knowledge and/or interest. \_\_\_\_\_

- FOHMP Volunteer Coordinator     Park Watch     Promoting Friends     Special Events     Mailing
- Phoning Members For Lectures and Special Events     Letter Writing Campaign     As Needed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail To:** FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

c/o Huntley Meadows Park  
3701 Lockheed Boulevard  
Alexandria, VA 22306

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

PHONE: 703/768-2525

WEB SITE: (<http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/index.html>)



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Your membership expires on the date in the upper left corner..  
NOTE: Please check your mailing label for accuracy & notify us of any changes .