

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



March 2012

Email: info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
Website: www.Friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

President's Message

Many of you may not be aware of the fact that the Park's Site Manager, Carolyn Gamble, is retiring March 7, 2012 after 30 years with the Park Authority. Huntley Meadows Park was fortunate to have her with us for that 30 years. Needless to say, she has played a major part in how we see Huntley Meadows Park today and leaves a legacy for the next generation of park users.

I have worked with Carolyn as a park employee and then volunteer since 1989 and we have shared many "park" experiences. I will say that two valuable skills I learned from her are that the big picture always works better if you pay attention to detail and that rule by committee is worth the struggle. Thank you Carolyn!

I asked Carolyn to write down a sampling of her Most Memorable Moments during the 30 years at HMP and here is what she came up with – Enjoy!

1. *The day the federal government put an end to the county's plans to build a 4-lane highway through the park. We all sang "Ding Dong the Road is Dead!" at the winter volunteer social that year. Eternal gratitude to Norma Hoffman and the Citizen's Alliance to Save Huntley.*
2. *While leading my very first beaver program, I excitedly pointed out a heron and fell off the boardwalk. That was a good lesson in carrying on despite looking ridiculous!*
3. *Pouring over a microscope with Karen Goodlatte discussing the finer points of plant anatomy and life in general.*
4. *Chasing after Dr. Charles Handley off-trail on the original weekly bird walks. Back in the "wild west" days we got to the other side of the park by walking across the beaver dam!*
5. *Working with talented volunteers to bring the arts and nature together. The first art show in 1988 featuring Lyndia Terre's beautiful etchings of Huntley Meadows; dancing on the boardwalk performing Karen Nyere's choreography; creating with Karen the quarterly coffeehouse, Café Cattail.*
6. *Birding with Ed Weigel and Ken Howard. Their love of discovery and science made it so exciting. They were like two big kids in a candy shop.*
7. *The night I slept at the Visitor Center. During a huge snow storm, I was left to keep the center open since we were not given permission to close. By the time I got to my car, I couldn't get out. What to do? I took a long, beautiful hike in hip waders, then slept on a pile of old Halloween costumes. Fun!*

8. *Pulling an "all-nighter" with staff and volunteers to complete the exhibits in time for the grand opening of the first Visitor Center in 1983. Team work saved the day!*
9. *Getting to work on big projects from beginning to end: two sets of exhibits (old and new Visitor Centers), interpretive signs, the Visitor Center addition and Historic Huntley. All very challenging and satisfying.*
10. *The time a sudden summer squall blew down the tent at the volunteer picnic! Some folks just kept eating, some tried to hold up the tent poles (aka lightning rods), but we all got very wet.*

Best of all: Working with great people, staff and volunteers, and feeling a part of this community.

On behalf of FOHMP, I'd like to Thank You Carolyn! We will miss you and Wish you Well in your future endeavors!

Kathi McNeil



What a Great Place to Land for Thirty Years

In 1981 I was working at the Museum of Natural History. My plan was to be a museum technician in the Division of Mammals, but I could only find short-term temporary work. Lack of job prospects caused me to re-think my aspirations. So I volunteered at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend, assisting veteran naturalist Cris Fleming with teaching a children's class. There I saw a job announcement for a seasonal position at some place called Huntley Meadows Park. I applied, I interviewed, I got the job. I hadn't even seen the wetland yet – I was psyched to teach science to kids in a natural setting. Little did I know that I had found the most amazing chunk of property in Northern Virginia and that this place would introduce me to the people who would become my lifelong friends, mentors, family and community.

There have been so many changes and challenges through the years, and I am grateful for all the opportunities I've had to stretch and grow. One thing I have learned over and over again is that this big ol' swamp draws a very interesting crowd of really good people who always do their best to support and protect it. Thank you all.

Now I am on to my next career, but I will still be in the area and plan to volunteer. And, of course, I will be walking in the park, enjoying this special ever-changing landscape. See you out there!

Carolyn Gamble



Park Manager's Message

A Walk on Huntley Meadows' Wild Side



Conservation at Home – Backyard Target Species

In the last newsletter I talked about how we're using indicator or "Target" species here at Huntley Meadows to guide the wetland restoration project. You can do the same thing in your own backyard, school, church or workplace! A great way to start is to check out the Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary program, <http://www.audubonva.org/index.php/audubon-at-home/wildlife-sanctuary-program/> Read all about how you can use Target Species to create a wildlife sanctuary for Tree Frogs, Orioles, Flying Squirrels and Dragonflies right in your neighborhood.

Park Manager Walk and Talks Monthly on Saturday afternoons

March 24, 4 to 6 p.m.
April 21, 4 to 6 p.m.
May 12, 5 to 7 p.m.



Join Park Manager Kevin Munroe on these monthly walks. Find out about the wetland restoration project and learn about the wildlife for which the Park is known. Cancelled if rain. FREE!

Wetland Restoration – Wetland Design Firm Hired!

In late January, the Park Authority Board approved hiring *Wetland Studies and Solutions (WSSI)* to develop a final design, create a management plan, acquire permits and over-see construction of the wetland restoration project. This came from a very careful and thorough application and interview process in which myself, Dave Lawlor and Charles Smith were all directly involved. After weeks of reading over documents and conducting interviews, WSSI was everyone's first choice and we're thrilled to be working with one of the top wetland design firms in the D.C. area. They are known for their expertise in wetland science and ecology, first-rate engineer team, extensive experience in permitting challenges, and their willingness to work collaboratively with the public and property owners. By this time next year we hope to have a final design and be well into the permitting process, with a goal of breaking ground in summer/fall of 2013. Please join me at one of my monthly *Park Manager Walk and Talks* for updates, and keep an eye on newsletters and websites for info as well. Always feel free to contact me directly: 703-768-2525.

Outdoor Classroom – It's Coming!

Our Outdoor Classroom Teaching Pavilion will hopefully be complete by March or April! Keep an eye out for this exciting new structure along the pathway between the parking lot and Visitor Center. The majority of funding came from donations and grants, including large amounts from Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Ken and Willa Howard estate – thank you! This structure will be primarily for educational programs, but will also be available for event rentals.

Carolyn Gamble Retires – A Legacy of Creating Home

After 30 years at Huntley Meadows Park, Carolyn embarks on a new set of adventures and challenges, and hopefully some much-deserved fun, rest and free-time. Imagining Huntley Meadows without Carolyn, is like trying to picture the park without a wetland, or a wetland without beavers. Just as beavers build unique wetlands that provide a home for plants and animals, Carolyn built a unique park that thousands of visitors, hundreds of volunteers and dozens of staff have called their second home.

Carolyn's thoughtfulness, compassion, knowledge, creativity, sense of fun and intense dedication to both natural and cultural resources have shaped this park for 30 years. It's largely her energy that created that special second-home-feeling for so many people. Our post-Carolyn park community may need restoration more than our wetland! Luckily, Carolyn has generously offered to host a few Café Cattail programs (one of her favorite events) after she retires, and has also offered to help train whoever we find to fill her position, hopefully in March or April.

Join us on March 7, 2PM-4PM (share photos and snacks with Carolyn in the auditorium) or March 10, 2PM-4PM (wetland walk and memories with Carolyn).

Kevin Munroe

**FOHMP
Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 19th
7 to 9 p.m.**



Celebrate spring with the FOHMP board, park staff and Friends members at our annual meeting on May 9th. Festivities will begin in the Visitor Center with light refreshments. A brief business meeting will be followed by highlights of the past year and recognition of new life members. We'll then walk to the wetland to hear a special springtime song performance by our local amphibian population. The courtship songs of frogs and toads should be in full swing and a not-to-be-missed ritual of spring is hearing them. Celebrate the park with the best friends of the park. We look forward to seeing you there. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight if you wish.

Please RSVP to 703-768-2525



Park News



Feel like getting outdoors, spending more time in the woods and wetlands, and contributing to the physical welfare of Huntley Meadows Park?

Some exciting new volunteer opportunities will soon be available... the Resource Management Office of Huntley Meadows, will be organizing several volunteer projects through the new Resource Management Volunteer (RMV) Program. Fellow volunteers, Adam Bucher, Karla Jamir, Steve Lindblom and Melina Tye will be coordinating with the Resource Management Office to bring you special volunteer workdays at the park throughout the year.

The RMV Program will focus on activities that directly support the substantial upkeep and resource management directives of our 1554 acre park by assisting the park staff with things like stream cleanup, follow-up and support of restoration projects, invasive plant removal (outside of the current IMA Program site), plant surveys, trail monitoring, and park maintenance. There are currently two events scheduled for March:

Sunday, March 4th (rain date 3/11) **12:00 pm - 3:00 pm** – Targeted Invasive Plant Pull near the Hike-Bike Trail

Saturday, March 17th (rain date 3/31) **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** – Trash Pick-Up along Dogue Creek

If you are interested in volunteering for either of the March events or would like to be informed of upcoming events, please send an email to HuntleyRMV@gmail.com and let them know you would like to help!

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Three summer internship opportunities and one 12 month apprenticeship opportunity are available at Huntley Meadows this summer. The three intern positions begin June 4th and end August 17th. The Naturalist and Natural Resource Management interns work 40 hours a week and receive a stipend of \$2,800. The Cultural Resource intern will work 20 hours a week and earn a stipend of \$1,200. The apprenticeship is a part-time 12 month (w/flexible seasonal hours) position beginning April or May 2012, and finishing in the spring of 2013, with a yearly salary of approximately \$8,000, depending on the hours.

To apply for any of these positions, please send a resume and letter of intent by **March 16, 2012** to: Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22306, attention Melissa Gaulding (melissa.gaulding@fairfaxcounty.gov) for the Naturalist Internship and Cultural Resource Internship. Address letters to attention of Dave Lawlor (dave.lawlor@fairfaxcounty.gov) for the Natural Resource Management Internship and Natural Resource Management Apprenticeship. Call the park at 703-768-2525 for more information.

Cultural Resource Internship

This internship is designed to give interested college students and recent graduates the opportunity to work with park staff at Historic Huntley, a recently restored federal period villa. The intern will be working with staff at Huntley Meadows Park to develop a programming plan, help design interpretation and lead programs for the newly restored Historic Site. The house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built by Thomson Mason, grandson of George Mason. Huntley Meadows Park occupies the land then used by Mason for farmland. The internship provides practical experience in a hands-on setting and gives participants the chance to create interpretation and plan programs for this small but significant house.

Naturalist Internship

This internship is designed to give interested college students and recent graduates the opportunity to work with park staff at a 1,554 acre wetland preserve operated by Fairfax County, Virginia. It provides practical experience in a hands-on setting and gives participants the chance to develop skills needed for a career in environmental education, wildlife conservation, and nature center operation. Work/training includes nature camps and field trips.

Natural Resource Management Internship

This internship is designed to give interested college students or recent graduates the opportunity to work with professional park staff to preserve and enhance wildlife habitats at a 1,554 acre wetland preserve. It provides practical experience in the skills and abilities needed for a career in wildlife management and environmental sciences. Duties include assisting resource management crew with habitat management for wetlands, meadows, and forests, taking part in water quality assessments, participating in invasive species programs and working on vegetation classification.

Natural Resource Management Apprenticeship

This apprenticeship is designed to provide recent college graduates or graduate students the opportunity to work with the Resource Management Staff for a **full year** to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat in 1,554 acre wetland preserve. It will provide opportunities to learn practical habitat management techniques including actively managing meadows, wetlands and forests. The apprentice will be involved in a large scale wetland restoration project, the deer management program, the invasive plant management program, the water quality program as well as general park maintenance. Hours are part-time and include a flexible schedule.


Spring Art News


James Strohmeier: *A Bit of Nature*
Fine Art paintings, drawings and sculptures
Artist's reception, Sunday, March 4th, 2 to 4 p.m.

James Michael Strohmeier, born and raised in Mesa, Arizona, has a lifelong love of wild-
 life. He is trained in classical fine art and enjoys creating with paint, colored pencil and
 clay. His work is dramatic and at times wonderfully whimsical. His creativity is bound-
 less. His show will run through April.



"The Blues"
James Strohmeier



Wildlife in Watercolors



B.J. Opfer

Paintings by B.J. Opfer
Artist's reception, Sunday, May 20th, 2 to 4 p.m.

B.J. Opfer is an accomplished wildlife artist who has been painting local wildlife for 25 years.
 His paintings have been exhibited at art shows in Northern Virginia and at nationally recog-
 nized juried shows. Using watercolors to emphasize the softness of feathers, his paintings are
 sensitive and realistic portraits. Birds from his backyard are often his subjects as well as water-
 fowl and shorebirds of the coastal region. His portfolio also includes small mammal paintings.
 Original paintings will be on sale as well as prints. A portion of the proceeds supports Huntley
 Meadows Park. The public is invited to attend the artist's reception on May 20th. The paint-
 ings will be on display in the Visitor Center throughout May and June.

FOHMP 2011 Photography Contest

FOHMP held their seventh annual Photography Contest in Decem-
 ber. The show, for amateur photographers, featured photographs
 taken at the park. We wish to thank our juror, Scott Musson, for
 having so carefully chosen the winning photos. A great big thank
 you also to the staff and volunteers who assisted in hanging and
 labeling the photos.

The photography show is a fundraiser for FOHMP as well as an
 excellent opportunity for amateur photographers to share their work
 with the public. We wish to thank the 32 entrants who submitted an
 amazing total of 109 photographs for the show. We congratulate the
 winners and hope they will contribute again next year. Also, our
 thanks to all those who participated in this event.

Sarah Stromayer, Art Show Coordinator

Adult Category Winners

- First Place: Mike Walker
- Second Place: Mary Rabadan
- Third Place: Mike Walker
- Honorable Mention: Michael Dubois, Stephen King, Tim Stone, Christina Taylor, Yukun Xing



Youth Category Winners

- First Place: Alexander Kluskens
- Second Place: Lucas Garvey
- Third Place: Malcolm McNeil
- Honorable Mention: Malcolm McNeil, Lorna Ryan

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park would like to thank the following new Lifetime members:

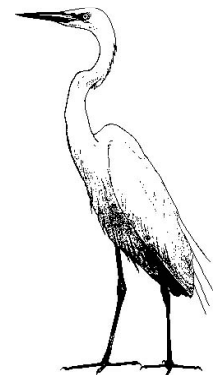
- Cathy Bing*
- Mike Brown*
- Wayne Crist*
- Susan and Al Eggerton*
- Anna Finch*
- L. Charles and Sharron A. FitzGerald*
- Meagan Keefe*
- Charles Lepple*
- Jennifer Santley*
- Edward P. Walker*
- Marjorie and Charney Weber*

We appreciate the support from our members that allows FOHMP to achieve our goal of helping to preserve and protect the park.

If you would like to give a "lifetime" of support to Huntley Meadows by becoming a life member, please send a donation of \$150 to:

Treasurer, FOHMP
 3701 Lockheed Blvd.
 Alexandria, VA 22306

Thank you!
Connie Carpende
Membership Chair





Huntley Meadows Happenings



Birding for Beginners

Sunday March 4, 8 to 11 a.m.

Sharpen your waterfowl identification skills while birding with a park naturalist. Meets in the Visitor Center parking lot. Register online. \$6

Birding with Andy

Saturday March 10, 8 to 10:30 a.m.

Search for wintering waterfowl and early spring birds. Following the walk, recap the sightings over breakfast at the Visitor Center. Register online. \$8



Evening Walk

Saturday March 17, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Join Park Naturalist PJ Dunn to hike the trails after dark, listening for owls and frogs and watching for beaver activity. Register online. \$6

Dazzled By Dragonflies

Saturday March 31, 3-4:30pm

Ever wonder how dragonflies can hover, dive and zoom at 40 mph? What do they eat, who eats them and what kind of courtship do they have? The answers are all bizarre and surprising - you won't want to miss this colorful power point presentation made up entirely of photos taken in Fairfax County. Includes a discussion of how to create the perfect dragonfly pond on your own property. Register Online \$6



Café Cattail

Friday April 13, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Welcome to Huntley Meadows' very own coffeehouse! 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, call the Park at 703-768-2525. FREE!

Best Bird Gardening Tips

Saturday April 14, 3-5 p.m.

Create a Bird Sanctuary! Learn secrets of planting for birds with slides, a garden tour and planting demo – you'll discover the best native plants for your property and tricks to attracting a variety of birdlife each month. Program cost includes a native wildflower and a seed packet for everyone – additional bird-attracting plants available for sale. Register online. \$8



For online information and registration go to:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> and search on "Huntley Events"

Birding for Beginners

Sunday April 15, 8 to 11 a.m.

Learn about optics and field guides as you birdwatch with a park naturalist. Register online. \$6

Offtrail Birding at South King's Highway

Saturday May 5, 7 to 9:30 a.m.

Join master birder Larry Cartwright at the South King's Highway entrance to the Park to go offtrail through the meadows. Bring binoculars and field guides; dress for tick protection and standing in tall grass. Register online. \$6

Wetlands Awareness Day

Sunday May 6, Noon to 3 p.m.

The biggest event on the HMP calendar is Wetlands Awareness Day. Hundreds of people come to the park to learn about the importance of and to experience the beauty of wetlands. Interpreters are stationed along the boardwalk where they unlock the mysteries of wetland soils, give close-up looks at wildlife through telescopes and impart visitors with a sense of what an amazing place Huntley Meadows is.

Sponsored by FOHMP. Please call Melissa Gauling at 703-768-2525 if you're interested in helping out at

Evening Walk

Saturday May 12, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Join Park Naturalist PJ Dunn to hike the trails after dark, listening for owls and frogs and watching for beaver activity. Register online. \$6



Birding with Andy – Warblers and More

Saturday 19 May, 8-10:30am

Search for warblers, thrushes, hawks and a host of other birds while birding with Andy Higgs, veteran Huntley Meadows birder. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Register online. \$6

Seasonal Birding for Beginners

Sunday 20 May, 8-11am

Identify birds that are seasonal highlights while walking with a park naturalist. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Register online. \$6

Artshow Opening

Sunday May 20, 2-4 p.m.

Meet watercolor artist BJ Opfer at the opening of this two-month exhibit of his wildlife watercolors. FREE!

For young visitors: Please check out the online site for information on children's series programs.

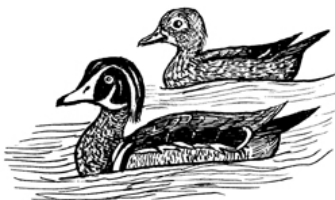


Huntley Meadows Notes



Duck Nestbox Program

By the time you read this, it'll be early spring and Hooded Mergansers will have begun nesting in the Park; Wood Ducks won't be far behind them. Our team monitors about fifteen nest boxes in the Park: these are the largest boxes mounted on poles that you see scattered about the wetland. We are the people with the big boots and sticks, since almost all the boxes are located in one to three feet of water.



These two species of duck begin laying eggs in very late February, and the last of the eggs hatch by about Memorial Day, sometimes a little later. Both of these birds bear what are called precocial young; that is, the ducklings come out of their eggs already covered in down, ready to be on their own, and they leave the nest box with their mother after only a day or two. Thus, it's not often that we see chicks in the nest, unlike our counterparts on the Eastern Bluebird team. But, come April, if you keep a close eye on the vegetation at the edge of the marsh, you might spot a line of little ducks swimming behind a female.

Last year the numbers were off a bit: we fledged an estimated 37 Wood Ducks and 51 Hooded Mergansers from 13 clutches of eggs. If you're looking for more details on how the nest box program has fared from 1982 until now, check out: <http://www.tinyurl.com/6rvn5tr>.

We're always looking for new volunteers to help out! We meet Sunday mornings at 8:30 during the nesting season. For more information, e-mail me at: nouveau@comcast.net.

David L. Gorsline



Bluebird Nestbox Program

The Huntley Meadows Bluebird Nestbox Program comprises two areas, Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) and the adjacent Coast Guard Station (CGS). HMP has 27 boxes, 20 of which are paired to permit Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows to nest side by side to reduce conspecific competition. Simply, this means that Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows forage differently and do not compete for the same prey base. Two paired boxes are located behind the observation tower on the south side of HMP and the remainder are situated near the hike/bike trail on the northwest side of the Park. The CGS hosts 5 boxes.

Eastern Bluebird production declined for the second year in a row while Tree Swallows laid a record number of eggs, but fledged slightly fewer young than in 2010. Eastern Bluebirds made 9 nesting attempts in 2011, 7 at HMP and 2 at the CGS. Monitors reported that 7 of these attempts produced fledged young. All eggs in the remaining 2 attempts failed to hatch, resulting in nest failure. From 38 eggs laid in 2011, Eastern Bluebirds hatched 27 nestlings and produced 27 fledglings. In the previous year, Eastern Bluebirds made 12 nesting attempts, laid 53 eggs, hatched 45, and fledged 43. The good news is that for the last 4 years, bluebird nestling survivability has been close to 100%. If they hatch, they generally fledge. Also, the data shows that the presence of Tree Swallows does not negatively impact Eastern Bluebird nesting success. The trend since 2003 has been toward a gradual increase in Eastern Bluebird nesting success despite a corresponding increase in Tree Swallow nestbox use. Whatever the cause of the decline in Eastern Bluebird production in 2011, I am confident that Tree Swallows did not play a factor.

Tree Swallows made 26 nesting attempts in 2011, 22 at HMP and 4 at the GCS. Nestlings fledged from 23 nests and 3 nests failed. Tree Swallows laid a record breaking 133 eggs, hatched 113 nestlings, and fledged 95. In contrast to Eastern Bluebirds, where all young survived, Tree Swallows suffered nestling mortality of around 15% in 2011. In 2010, Tree Swallows had 100% nestling survivability. From a total of 114 eggs, 100 hatched and 100 nestlings fledged.

Larry Cartwright

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

Winter can be the most exciting for birding in the mid-Atlantic states. There are usually many ducks, grebes and other waterfowl in the Central Wetlands, as well as many winter migrants in the woods, and in the cattail areas. But this year is turning out sort of sparse. The duck populations have been down, with some typical Huntley Meadows species hardly showing up at all. In years past the Monday Morning birders have seen as many as 150 Green-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers in the 60s to 100s, and Northern Pintails matching the Mergs. Teals this year have been down, with our highest counts being about 50. Merganser counts have been very low, with Pintails holding at about 20 to 40. Previous years have brought other species that we haven't seen at all this year: Ring-necked Duck, only two Gadwalls so far, a steady but low population of Northern Shovelers, and only one Widgeon.

Regarding forest birds, we have not seen huge numbers of woodpeckers, nuthatches, or sparrows this winter. Brown Creepers, always somewhat elusive, aren't too plentiful either. There has been a Winter Wren seen 2 or 3 times, and one or two American Tree Sparrows, but we are light on Field Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and down a bit on the standbys – Song and Swamp Sparrows. Winter regulars such as Slate grey Juncos and White Throated Sparrows have also been down slightly.

Raptor counts are holding with Red-shouldered Hawks regularly seen or heard, and Bald Eagles being fairly regular visitors. Of some excitement were the vocalizations of three distinct Soras on the January 9 walk. There was suspected sightings of an unknown species of Rail on one occasion.

As we gather at Denny's to tally the list each Monday, the regulars speculate that the cause for this is an unusually warm and snowless winter. Are there any ideas about this phenomenon among readers?

The Monday Morning Birdwalk happens every week and is open to anyone. Come out and join us. *Harry Glasgow*

Please Support the Huntley Meadows Park Birdathon

Huntley Meadows Birdathon 2012

I first started really looking at birds in the late 1980's, although I often hadn't a clue as to what I was looking at. One day, a fellow on the boardwalk at Huntley Meadows called me over and said, "Hey, would you like to see a baby American Bittern?" It was the first time I had met Ken Howard, and I was taken by his enthusiasm, his generosity and that easy smile. His pure joy in sharing a good sighting was something I often saw repeated many times over the next few years. Ken suggested I join him on the Monday Morning Birdwalk, and it was there that he introduced me to Ed Weigel. Ed exemplified the scientific approach to observing and recording data. He had an amazing repository of birding knowledge that I have never seen matched. He was hands-down the best birder I have ever known. Together, Ken and Ed comprised an amazing pair. Most of what I know about birds (and the sheer joy of birding) comes from the time I spent with them. It's with Ken and Ed in mind that we will be conducting the annual Huntley Meadows Birdathon on Tuesday, May 8th.

Every year, park staff and volunteers set out very early in the morning to count bird species in the park. Sixteen years ago this evolved from an annual survey into an opportunity to remember and honor these two exceptional men. Ken Howard and Ed Weigel were both volunteers who for years inspired a love of nature within the park visitors they met. Their work continues to this day through the park's Natural Resource Internship that is funded by the Birdathon. This internship provides a young person with the opportunity to begin a career in conservation and to get hands-on experience in this wonderful park.

As always, we have two goals for the event. In the field, our target is to record 100 species for the day. We've done it five times so far, with 108 species in 2004 being our top record. The other is to support the Resource Management Intern position. While most folks make a straight donation, the donation can be based on the number of species found. If you were to donate fifty cents per species seen, 100 species would produce a donation of \$50. That would go a long way towards helping us reach our annual goal of \$2,800. We have always appreciated the generosity of park supporters in helping us to meet our goal, and hope we can count on you again this year.

I believe this is a great cause. Like many of you, I knew Ken and Ed well, and consider myself fortunate to have learned so much about the natural world from them. I want to see their good work continue, and I hope you feel the same way. Thank you very much.

Andy Higgs



2012 BIRDATHON AT HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Please make checks payable to FCPA-HMP

Mail this form and check to:

**Birdathon, Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306**

Results will be posted by June 1 on the FOHMP website: www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

***Friends of Huntley Meadows Park
Membership and Renewal Form***

Please support Huntley Meadows Park by joining our Friends group. By becoming a member, you will help to protect and preserve the park. Your dues will help fund new initiatives and programs and your support will help us to be advocates for the park. Fill out and mail the application to this address:

**Friends of Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22306**

Dues information:

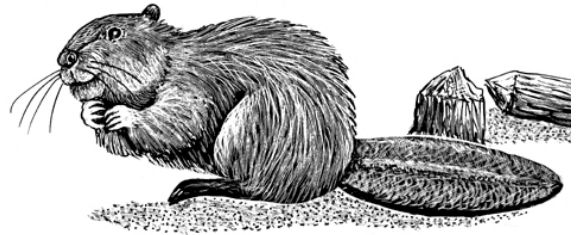
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$10 Student/Senior
- \$150 Lifetime membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



Friends of Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd
Alexandria, VA 22306



Please check your mailing label for accuracy and notify us of any changes.
Your membership expiration date is in the upper left corner.