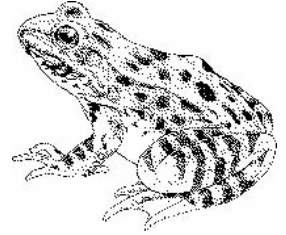


Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



September 2007

Email: info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Website: www.Friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Note from the President

This has been a busy summer for me and for FOHMP. It began in June with the Annual Membership meeting. We had a good turnout, recognized quite a number of new lifetime members, and had a great walk. For many of us, it was our first introduction to our new Park Manager, Kevin Munroe.

Kevin and Dave Lawlor (HMP Resource Manager) have been very involved this summer with the HMP Wetland Restoration Plan. You may remember that there was a public meeting in May to introduce this plan which has two phases. The first phase is the construction of an earthen berm with a water control device and a sediment pond in the central wetland. The second phase involves dredging small ponds in the central wetland that would collect water in times of drought. Both phases of the plan involve dredging, construction and plantings in the wetland. I urge everyone of you to attend a meeting, check out the plan on the website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/restorationproject.htm, and let Kevin know your thoughts. Kevin and Dave have gone the extra mile to meet with people and make themselves available for questions and comments. Please take advantage of this. If permits can be secured in a timely manner, phase one of the project could begin this Fall. Phase Two is dependent on funding through the 2008 FCPA bond.

This summer FOHMP offered a Photography Camp for 12-16 year olds. It was a great success! Professional photographer, Corey Hilz, and I teamed up for the four day camp. I took the kids out in the park to take photographs and Corey gave them instruction on composition, lighting, subject, how to use your camera, what other cameras are out there, and printing. Corey also critiqued the camper's photos each day. The idea for this camp grew out of the

FOHMP Photography Contest. Last year we had quite a few youth entries which were very good! We are hoping to offer a weekend program for adults with Corey and another camp next summer. This camp was also supported by the Stan Russell Photography Fund at HMP.

Fall is upon us and change is coming in the wetland. I've probably said this a million times, but every time I walk out into the wetland, it is different but still beautiful and magical to me! I encourage you to come and take a walk and think about the word *restoration* and what it means to you and this place.

Kathi McNeil

Wetland Restoration Project Public Meeting and Plan Presentation Friday, September 21, 7 to 8:45 p.m. Groveton Elementary School 6900 Harrison Ln., Alexandria

Please join us on this important evening as we review the plans for the wetland restoration project. This undertaking will require major work in the main wetland area and will permanently alter the nature of the park's wetlands. We encourage your participation in the process. The program will include time for comments, group discussion, questions and a "what's next" portion where we discuss the project schedule. No reservations are necessary but we strongly encourage you to

Park Manager's News



What a busy and eventful summer! Starting a new job and trying to wrap my mind around the wetland restoration project has kept me busy, but my favorite memories of these last few months have been of another ilk.

The times I'm able to get out on Huntley's paths and explore the park's hidden nature are my favorite. King Snakes sunning themselves on fallen trees; giant Eyed Click Beetles and yellow-purple Carrion Beetles flying down aerial roads; caramel and lemon-colored Ichneumon Wasps hunting for grubs with their 3 inch long stingless ovipositors and a threesome of Mississippi Kites (a life bird for me!) hunting for dragonflies over the boardwalk. Evenings bring Green Tree Frogs filling the air with their wild, raucous calls and a dozen snapping turtles lined up in Barnyard Run during the drought, eating frogs unwisely seeking refuge in what they thought were safe waters. Add to this the amazing plant life - dozens of scented Swamp Rose blossoms, Elderberries weighted down with hundreds of purple-black fruits, glowing clumps of Purple Milkweed and some of the largest Sassafras trees I've ever seen - and the park is a naturalist's dream.

As I grow into wearing the administrative hat that's an important part of this job, I'll be counting on the park's plants and animals, as well as its human visitors, to make sure I also keep my naturalist and educator hats at hand and in use. I look forward to the members of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park pulling me away from my computer to show me their favorite parts of this property. My door is open, as is the invitation to take the new manager on a walk.

I want to thank everyone who has made me feel welcome and a part of this amazing community of passionate, informed, energetic fellow nature lovers. I look forward to working with the staff, the volunteers and the visitors on sharing and caring for Huntley Meadows. The wetland restoration is an exciting project and I encourage all of you to find out about it. We've created a new page on the county's Huntley Meadows website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/restorationproject.htm, dedicated to information about the project. It includes maps, designs, public comments and a listing of related events. Check it out and let me know what you think.

Other ideas I hope to explore with folks over the years to come are native plant sales, Eco-savvy Land Management workshops, outdoor classrooms, dragonfly and herp counts, Pollinator Week celebrations and building partnerships with other parks and local conservation organizations. As I look for ways to continue and strengthen Huntley's mission and traditions, I'll be drawing heavily on the energy, expertise and passion of this exceptional Friends group. Please feel free at any time to share *your* ideas for programs, projects and partnerships. What would *you* like us to be doing? As our most frequent and dedicated visitors, I'd love to hear your ideas.

Kevin Munroe
Park Manager



Saturday, October 6
Park Manager Walk & Talk

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Huntley Meadows

Take a walk in the wetland with Huntley Meadows new manager and spend the evening sharing your ideas and talking one-on-one about wetland restoration, or any other park topic of your choice. RSVP to the park at 703 768 2525 if you'd like to attend.

Fall Art News

Natural Selections

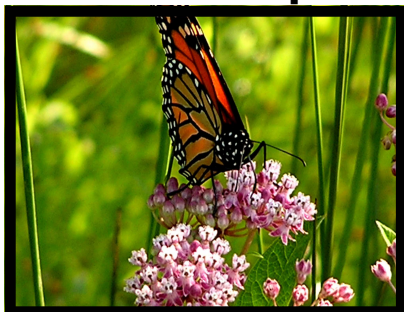
*Handmade Beaded Jewelry Exhibit
Opening reception September 16th*

Meet artist Laura Beaty on Sunday, September 16th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the opening reception of her two month show in the auditorium at Huntley Meadows Park. Laura will demonstrate some of the cord and wire techniques she employs in creating her nature-inspired jewelry. Exquisite silver bracelets fashioned with handmade artisan beads as well as a fanciful variety of beautiful necklaces and earrings will be on display and on sale through November 18th.

The reception is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. No reservations necessary, please come.



Friends of Huntley Meadows Park 2007 Photography Contest Awards reception December 9th, 2 to 4 p.m.



Monarch on Swamp Milkweed

The FOHMP Photo Contest is a nature-themed photography contest and a Friends of Huntley Meadows Park fundraiser. We invite all to submit your favorite photos taken at the park. Contestants must submit photos between **November 1-15, 2007**. No late entries will be accepted. Selected photos will be exhibited at the HMP Visitor Center from December 1, 2007 to February 28, 2008. All photos exhibited may be used by the Park for promotional or fundraising purposes. All proceeds from the sale of exhibited photographs and entry fees will be used to support Huntley Meadows Park.

Contest Rules

1. An entry fee of \$5.00 must accompany your entry (maximum of 3 photos per entry). The fee is waived for those 18 and younger.
2. All photographs must have been taken at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax County, VA.
3. Photographs taken with both film and digital cameras are acceptable.
4. Only photographs of a nature theme will be considered (plants or animals.) Photos may contain images of people as long as the provisions in the Copyrights and Permissions section are followed. Please contact the Park for this information.
5. Photographs must be matted. Mounts should be standard sizes and should not exceed 18"x24".
6. Name, address, and telephone number should be entered clearly on the **BACK** of the mounted photograph. No identifying marks should appear on the front of the photographs, to preserve anonymity.
7. The decisions of the judges are final.
8. Photographers will be notified before December 1 if their photos will be included in the exhibit. Photographs that are not included in the show may be picked up at the opening reception on December 9.

Award Categories

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and Honorable Mentions will receive ribbons and certificates, and will be mentioned in a press release for the photography show, as well as on the FOHMP website.

Entry Forms are available at the Visitor's Center along with a list of eligibility requirements.

HMP Summer Interns Say Farewell

Thanh Pham Naturalist Intern

It was on a rainy Sunday afternoon that I found the big blue sign “Huntley Meadow Park”. It is a place with trees, trees, and trees. From the parking lot, the path showed the way to the visitor center and was shady, dark, and scary. It’s the path that I had to walk through the next day, Monday, July 9th. At that moment, I realized that my summer internship would start in less than 24 hours.

It was the first full-time job that I have ever had, and I like it. Working 40 hours a week was not so bad for me since I had tremendous fun. Time flew so fast before I realized that it had been eight weeks since I started the internship. There were so many things that I learned and experienced at this natural wetland. I got to attend various programs and camps, to see the beaver lodge, to learn about plants, and to watch some of the common, yet beautiful birds. Every hour that I spent planning and organizing for the Buglover’s Paradise was meaningful. Teaching Young Explorers I was nervous, but I enjoyed every moment of the program.

I love and admire every staff member at the park. They are such sweet, funny, and knowledgeable people. Carolyn knows every single thing about plants, animals, and even humans. Melissa is such a wonderful artist and a lovely teacher. Kevin is a great park manager and his stories about dragonflies always amaze me. Nancy is a charming and responsible person. I love her creative craft ideas. Bird-Expert Annie with her full energy and the “p-i-z-z-a”, “chick-a-dee dee dee” sound kept the office lively and chirpy. Lovely Suzanne’s adventures make me jealous and her boar’s head could never be forgotten. Lastly, the amazing HMP wouldn’t be famous without the help of the kind and dedicated volunteers.

As I was writing this article, believe it or not, my heart was beating fast with the pour of thoughts and emotions. It was very hard for me to summarize my 11 weeks internship experience on a limited paper length. I’m not good at writing essays and there is so much that I want to share. It’d be a lot easier for me to be asked face to face, because then, all I have to say is “OMG” with the 2 big-open eyes on a happy face. I thank FOHMP for giving me this great opportunity and I treasure meeting the great staff and volunteers.



Adam Bucher Natural Resource Intern

This summer was certainly perfect timing for me to have been working at the park. With everything from continuing the water quality monitoring program, studying tree survivorship in a meadow that recently underwent a prescribed burn, and learning about the planned wetland restoration project, every aspect of my college major was put to good use. Corraling and handling geese at several area lakes while they were being banded and watching the succession of plant and animal life in the central wetland as this summer’s drought slowly took hold are two things I will surely never forget.

I also had my fair share of physical hard work, pulling different exotic, invasive plant species and removing fallen trees from the trails. When I took a weekend trip to New York City this summer, I know it was the first time when I wasn’t gazing wide-eyed with my mouth open at the city skyline. Instead, that same expression was directed towards the hundreds, maybe thousands, of acres of Phragmites that had invaded the Jersey shores. Once you’ve been pricked by Autumn Olive, Mile-A-Minute, and Barberry, you certainly don’t look at invasives the same way again.

I want to thank Dave, Brian, and Dennis for not only creating a great work environment that made it easy to step into the office at 7AM, but also for trusting me with the Kubota. I would love to come back and help out whenever possible on my school breaks (unless it involves rakes and 20 tons of gravel).

I will be graduating next year from the University of Virginia with a degree in Environmental Science.

Adam’s position was funded through the Huntley Meadows Park Birdathon. The park staff and FOHMP would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. We raised over \$2,000! Special thanks to all the staff and birders who worked to count those birds. We’re looking forward to seeing more birds and raising more money in May 2008 at our

One Good Tern.....deserves another!

A heart-felt thank you goes out to FOHMP Board Member and owner of One Good Tern, Charles Studholme. One Good Tern, off Quaker Lane in Alexandria, is a wonderful store for birders and bird lovers. Charles has been most generous in his discounts and donations to Huntley. Recently, Charles donated three high quality pairs of binoculars to the park. It is such a pleasure being able to offer them to program participants, volunteers and staff. We could never have purchased the binos on our own. Also, for many years, Charles has been very supportive of volunteer efforts and has donated gifts for volunteer

trainings and recognitions as well as donating shade-grown coffee for Huntley's own coffee house, Cafe Cattail.

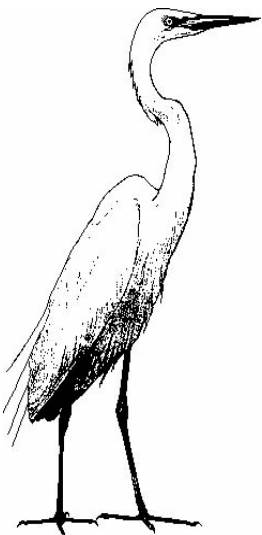
When Gary Roisum retired, we were able to present him with a fantastic spotting scope and tripod thanks to the generous discount made available by Charles.

Thank you, Charles!



Huntley Meadows Birder

Many thanks to Ken Larsen, the editor of the FOHMP newsletter for the last several years. Ken is putting down his pen, or computer, and we are looking for someone to take his place as editor. Computer skills involving layout for a newsletter essential. The newsletter is printed four times a year. Please contact Kathi McNeil at 703-780-5939 if you are interested. We could use your help!



New Life Members of FOHMP

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

Edwin Massie and Shirley Stanley Wright
Dorothy Raduazo
Arleen Richman
Miriam Ruhland

We appreciate your support! If you would like to give a "lifetime" of support, please send your donation of \$150 to:
Treasurer, FOHMP
3701 Lockheed Blvd,
Alexandria, VA 22306

Remember to donate your used nature books to our book sale. Just drop them off at the visitor center.

Good condition appreciated. Please, no book sets.



Thanks for your help. All funds from the booksale are used to support park projects.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Our bank account was enriched this past fiscal year by almost \$7,500. We took in \$4,105 in dues, \$2,360 in donations and had \$951 of income from the sales desk. Friends made several donations to the park of equipment that was much needed by staff. Included in this was audio-visual equipment, a dissecting scope and a UV lamp. We also supplied the visitor's desk with another 10,000 stickers to hand out to young visitors. We donated \$500 to the Birdathon, and \$330 to Wetland Awareness Day to provide snacks for volunteers and live exhibits for visitors. Additional expenses during the year included \$2,500 for a summer intern, \$953 for our quarterly newsletter and \$240 for our website. We actually spent about \$500 more than we took in during the year, but the checking account still stands at over \$11,000. We'll be waiting for the staff wish list to see what else we can do for them in the coming year.

Sally Cureton

Fall Program Schedule

ADULTS

Saturday, September 8

Birding at South King's Highway *Free, call 703 768 2525 for reservations.*

7:00-9:30 am. Join us at a great time of year for birding. The last wave of neotropical migrants are moving through and the first wintering birds are arriving. Meet at the park's South King's Highway and Telegraph Road entrance.

Sunday, September 16

Art Show Opening: Handmade Jewelry *Free and open to the public, no reservations needed.*

2-4 pm. Join artist Laura Beaty at the opening reception for "Natural Selections", an exhibit of nature-inspired jewelry featuring artisan glass beads, fine silver and knotted cord work. Laura will demonstrate her cord-and-wire technique at the reception.

Saturday, September 22

Fall Birds and Bagels *\$5, call for reservations.*

8-11 am. Enjoy an early morning walk in search of resident and migrating birds, then relax and recap the sightings during a continental breakfast at the Visitor Center. Binoculars and field guides recommended. Sponsored by FOHMP.

Friday, September 28

Café Cattail

7-9:30 pm. Welcome to Huntley Meadows Park's own coffeehouse! Enjoy a relaxing evening applauding our community's talents. Reservations required for performers only. FREE

Sunday, September 30

Birding for Beginners-Optics and Field Guides *\$2, call for reservations.*

8-11 am. Interested in birding? We can get you started! Learn about the birds in the park and try out different optics. Program begins in the parking lot.

Sunday, October 21

Introduction to Fly Tying *\$10, reservations needed.*

(16 yrs. and up), 12:30-1:30 pm. If woolly buggers and hare's ear nymphs pique your interest, you may want to try your hand at the intricate art of fly tying. Equipment and materials provided. Sponsored by FOHMP.

Sunday, November 18

Birding for Beginners *\$2, call for reservations.*

8-11 am. Observe the transition of our bird community as the summer breeding population moves south and winter residents arrive. A park naturalist will help you sharpen your bird identification skills. Meet in the parking lot.

FAMILIES

Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7

Video - Fall Colors

1-1:30 pm. The forests treat us to a fireworks display of scarlet, bronze and gold as autumn leaves turn. Find out how and why these changes occur during this informative 30-minute video. FREE

Saturday, October 20

Watershed Cleanup Day *Free, reservations needed.*

9-11:30 am. Give the waterways in your community a clean bill of health by helping Park staff clean up Little Hunting Creek. Wear boots, old clothes, and gloves.

Sunday, October 21

Historic Huntley Fall Open House *Free, no reservations needed.*

2-4 pm, Historic Huntley. Call 703-768-2525 for information.

Enjoy this twice-a-year opportunity to visit Historic Huntley, a federal-style villa built in 1825 for Thomson Mason. Sponsored by Friends of Historic Huntley.



Historic Huntley

Fall Program Schedule

Families, cont.

Saturday, October 27 and Sunday, October 28

Batty About Bats *Free, no reservations needed.*

1-3 pm. Try on some bat wings and see a real vampire bat skull at this on-going, self-directed program about amazing bats.

Sunday, October 28

Oh Deer! *\$2 fee, call 703 768 2525 for reservations.*

(6 yrs. and up), 12:30-2 pm. Families will go off-trail to look for signs of deer activity, and talk about how important these animals were to the American Indians living in Virginia at the time of the Jamestown settlement.

Sunday, November 11

Fall Evening Walk *\$2 fee, call for reservations.*

(6 years and up) 4-5:30 pm. Families visit the wetland, and if we are lucky, catch a glimpse of beavers working. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cancelled if rain.

Saturday, November 17 and Sunday, November 18

Native American Theme *Free, no reservations needed.*

1-3 pm. Travel back to a time when Native Americans populated this country. Self-guided displays and hands-on activities.

Saturday, November 24 and Sunday, November 25

Video - Cardinals Up Close *Free*

1-2 pm. Meet the northern cardinal, Virginia's state bird and a familiar backyard visitor, during this 50-minute video.

CHILDREN

Monday, September 10

Young Explorers - Beavers *\$3 Call 703 768 2525 for reservations.*

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30 pm. Learn about Huntley Meadow's superheroes through a discussion, an activity, and a walk to the wetland.

Wednesday, September 12 and Thursday, September 13

Nature Detectives - Beavers *\$5 Call for reservations.*

(3-5 yrs.), 10-10:45 am. Learn about our resident beavers through an activity, and a craft.

Monday, October 15

Young Explorers – Oh Deer! *\$3, call for reservations.*

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30 pm. Learn about the park's most graceful mammals through a discussion, an activity, and a walk in the woods.

Wednesday, October 17 and Thursday, October 18

Nature Detectives - Pumpkinfest *\$5 fee, call for reservations.*

(3-5 yrs.), 10-10:45 am. Bring a small pumpkin to decorate. Enjoy the wonders of autumn with a story and a craft.

Wednesday, November 14 and Thursday, November 15

Nature Detectives - American Indians *\$5 fee, call for reservations.*

(3-5 yrs.), 10-10:45 am. Learn about American Indians who lived in this area 500 years ago, through an activity, and a craft.

Monday, November 19

Young Explorer - American Indians *\$5 fee, call for reservations.*

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30 pm. Learn about the American Indians who lived in this area 500 years ago, through a discussion, an activity, and by exploring in the woods.

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

Please support Huntley Meadows Park by joining the Friends group. Become a member today and help to protect and preserve the park. Your annual dues will keep you informed and help to fund the nature center's programs. Fill out and mail the application to this address:

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

Dues information:

- \$10 Individual
- \$15 Family
- \$5 Student/Senior
- \$150 Lifetime membership

Name: _____

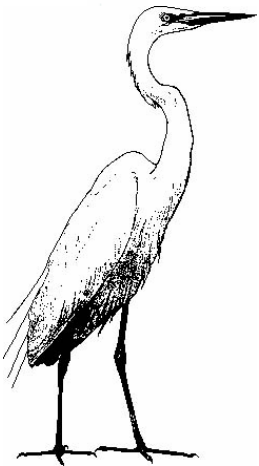
Address: _____

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.