

# Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



**December 2015**

Website: [www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark)

## Park Manager's Message

As the third Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) Manager, I'd like to say a big hello to the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP). I'm so honored to be part of the Park community, work with outstanding staff and volunteers, and have wonderful support from all the FOHMP and the Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH). Thanks to everyone for your kind emails and messages regarding my appointment.

My first experiences with Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) were at Providence RECenter, where a group of friends went for step aerobics classes - so yes, this puts us back to the early 1990's. Around the same time, the Jefferson District Park mini golf course became a favorite of friends too. I tried regular golf at an FCPA location I won't mention, and extend my apologies for the many divots I tried to fill in. Needless to say, I'm sticking with mini-golf.

I became a Program Leader volunteer at Riverbend Park in the late 1990's and soon after attended volunteer training at HMP. I still clearly remember being greeted by Carolyn Gamble and Annie Stat, our program training leaders for the morning.

In 1999 I became a member of the staff at Riverbend Park as an Assistant Naturalist and the Senior Interpreter in 2004, finally joining the team at HMP as Operations & Visitor Services Manager in 2012. Throughout my time in the Park Authority I've enjoyed working with the communities, volunteers, and staff, and I look forward to the years ahead at HMP.

As my first official week as Park Manager came to a close, I was thrilled to attend the Elly Doyle Park Service Award Ceremony (see pages 2 and 3) to honor a Park Outstanding Volunteer, as well as, FOHMP who received the prestigious Elly Doyle Award. Many congratulations to FOHMP and thank you for your commitment, dedication, passion, and positive spirit for HMP.

Warm wishes to everyone as we head into the winter season.

Karen Sheffield



**Park Manager Karen Sheffield**

## Do you need a receipt?

The 2015 tax season is right around the corner! If you paid membership dues or made a monetary donation to FOHMP in 2015, these contributions may be tax deductible. If you would like a letter of receipt, please send your request to [friendsof-hmp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsof-hmp@gmail.com), and we'll be happy to provide one.

Thank you for your support!

## President's Message & Congratulations

Congratulations to the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP)! On behalf of all FOHMP members, several Board members and I accepted the Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) 2015 Elly Doyle Award on the evening of November 20, 2015.



Friends of Huntley Meadows Park Board Members (from left to right) Kat Dyer, Connie Carpender, Karla Jamir, Harry Glasgow, Cathy Ledec.

We also congratulate Friends of Accotink Creek and Susan Voss of Green Spring Gardens and other FCPA awardees at this very special evening. It is an honor to share the stage with these award winners, and we gratefully and humbly accept this recognition.

I thank the Board of Directors of FOHMP for their consistently energetic, enthusiastic work and leadership on behalf of and in defense of the important natural and cultural resources at the Park.

We do this work because we love all that is Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) and we want to share this special place with all of you. We are committed to defending the Park that is home to native flora and fauna that take refuge from the intense development surrounding us. We understand the importance that this 1500+ acres of conservation area plays in providing residents of Fairfax County (and

visitors from outside our area) with a place to connect with nature, a peaceful place for walking the trails, and a place to balance the stresses of living in a traffic-intense, gadget filled world.

At HMP the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has found the largest example of Coastal Plain Depression Swamp in all of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have rare plants and animals living and migrating through our Park, making it a very special place. We invite you to join us on a naturalist-led walk through the Park where you can turn off your cell phone or gadget and enjoy the many sounds of nature surrounding you.

To all of our Friends, neighbors and visitors, we thank you for your commitment to FOHMP. Again, congratulations to FOHMP, recipient of the 2015 Elly Doyle Award. Keep up the good work, and I look forward to seeing you on the trails!

Cathy Ledec, President  
FOHMP

*Elly Doyle Park Service Award - In 1988, the Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established in recognition of the many contributions of Ms. Ellamae Doyle, a longtime member of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. During her tenure, the Park Authority significantly increased its land holdings, programs and facilities, opened new RECenters and created new parks throughout the community. Ms. Doyle served as Chairman of the Board from 1965 to 1968.*





Kat Dyer poses with Darth Vader and R2D2 at the Elly Doyle Park Service Award ceremony where the theme was 'Volunteers are out of this world!'

## Recognition

Each November Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) recognizes its large volunteer force at the Elly Doyle Park Service Award ceremony. The category with the largest number of winners is the Outstanding Volunteer Award. These selfless individuals represent each site within FCPA and are selected by their peers. In fiscal Year 2015, volunteers provided 180,642 hours of service to the Park Authority. These service hours are valued at \$4.2 million dollars according to Independent Sector, the leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good..

FCPA volunteers play an integral role in the agency's success and its stature nationwide as an outstanding park system. Volunteers provide critical manpower and expertise. They bring passion to the parks and altruism on a remarkable level. FCPA and Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) depend on volunteers to meet the needs of customers, the parks they help, and the mission of FCPA.

This year **Kat Dyer** was Huntley Meadow's recipient of the Elly Doyle Outstanding Volunteer Award. Kat has dedicated seven years of hard work to many projects.

She began teaching children about the Park's natural resources and has focused on resource management. Kat currently volunteers in five different capacities. The role most dear to her heart is acting as one of the coordinators of the Resource Management Volunteers (or RMV's). The RMV's take on various natural resource management tasks such as invasive plant removal, habitat restoration, and other tasks related to the wetland restoration. Kat continues volunteering with a variety of other projects, including monitoring duck nest boxes and assisting at special events. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park. The HMP staff is grateful for all Kat's support and hard work.

## Go Green

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? The Board is moving toward providing the newsletter through email.

If you would like to be added to our email list, please email us at: [friendsofhmp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhmp@gmail.com)

1) Please indicate whether you would like to receive the newsletter via:

- Email
- Mail
- Both



2) Please indicate if you would like to receive occasional communications from FOHMP via email.

FOHMP DOES NOT SHARE OUR EMAIL LIST WITH ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

## Meet the Staff

Hello! My name is **Kylie Starck**, and I am the new Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) Program Manager/Senior Interpreter, replacing Meagan Keefe. I grew up playing outside and have always had a passion for the natural world. I graduated from George Mason University in 2011 with a B.S. in Conservation Biology. I have always loved the outdoors and working with people, so I am thrilled to have this position at the Park!

I began working for HMP as the Naturalist Intern in the summer of 2012. Around that time, I became Fairfax County Park Authority's first Roving Naturalist. As a Rover, I was able to work all over the County filling in for programming when needed for school groups, summer camps, and scout programs. In 2013 I was hired as a Seasonal Naturalist/Programmer, teaching a variety of topics and age groups until I was hired into my current role in May 2015.

I greatly enjoy working with all of the HMP staff and volunteers and look forward to things to come! Cheers!



Kylie Starck

The summer of 2015 was a very happy summer for me – I was invited to join the crew at Huntley Meadows! Lucky me! I am **Jennifer (Jen) Crawford**, a new Natural History Interpreter and Programmer. I started working HMP camps this summer and now teach Nature for Tiny Tots, Nature Detectives, and Science for Home Schoolers. You also might see me leading a birthday party, a school group, or scouts.



Jennifer Crawford

It all started in my youth when I used to come home late for dinner...after a day catching tadpoles, frogs, and salamanders in the pond with my best friend. No matter the consequences, I was back the next day! My friend and I studied our catches – their colors, behaviors and changes – and raised a few tadpoles into frogs. After that, I looked for as many experiences as possible to learn more about animals in nature. Behind me now are many biology classes, lots of field trips, and loads of time outdoors from high school through college and into my adult life.

When I retired from my first paying profession, I decided to purposefully increase my involvement with nature. While living in Naples, Florida I discovered the Florida Master Naturalist program. I immediately took all three habitat courses - coastal, wetlands, and uplands. With my new qualifications, I volunteered to lead children's programs at the Audubon jewel, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and at the Nature Conservancy of Southwest Florida. I was a guide for an eco-tour company called Orchids and Egrets that treated executives to the

'Jen Crawford continued on page 5'

'Jen Crawford continued from page 4'

ultimate conference break – a walk in the wetlands, the woods, or on the beach. To my naturalist credentials I added a Masters' in Education and then moved north.

While teaching elementary school in Fairfax County, I found the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and following my natural instincts, got involved with volunteering. I balanced teaching and volunteering for the next five years. Most significant was the opportunity to serve on the Fairfax Master Naturalist Training Committee improving the Basic Training Course by summarizing speaker presentations into one-page fact sheets for quick reference, increasing educational practices, and piloting nature-based sites for training.

Realizing how much fun the nature experiences provided me, I took a risk and left the teaching profession on sabbatical. That's when I discovered "roving" for Fairfax County Parks where I taught science to school groups outdoors. My teaching and nature interests fused. I saw the opportunity to do this as an employee and jumped! Full circle: I'm so glad I landed at Huntley! I look forward to giving my best to the Park's nature programs.

I want to thank everyone at Huntley Meadows Park for giving me such a warm welcome. My name is **Cheryl Repetti**, and I am the new Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator for Historic Huntley. I have taken a somewhat unusual path to reach this position, but I think my experience suits it well.

When I was seven years old, my mother convinced my father to take us camping. Every vacation since involved a tent. For me, one of the highlights of each trip was attending the ranger interpretative programs.

But it wasn't really a career I seriously considered (far too much fun to be a real job) when I was younger, and my education reflects that. I have a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio arts from The Cooper Union and a Doctorate in sociology from George Washington University. I have found that my interest and training in art and sociology have served me well in working as an interpreter for the Park Authority. Art, like programming, is a creative endeavor, plus there are all those crafts! Sociology uses scientific methodology to understand how social systems function, but to do so also involves taking a historical approach. So moving back and forth between natural science and history isn't unfamiliar territory for me.



Cheryl Repetti (on right)

I also have a fondness for old buildings, a result of having a father who works as an architect and of growing up in a 1904 Victorian house in New York City. When my kids were four years old I enrolled them in a cooperative preschool that was located in a historic building in Centreville, VA. Curiosity about the history of the preschool house led to my becoming involved in the Historic Centreville Society and the Friends of Historic Centreville. My children also led me to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (ECLP), where we enjoyed Kids Korner with Miss Karen and Miss Jamie. I volunteered there and was subsequently hired in 2009 to lead school field trips. Like Huntley Meadows Park, ECLP has both natural and cultural resources that Park staff interpret. I found that I really enjoyed digging for worms with second graders one day and dressing in a hoop skirt to churn butter the next, so much so that I spent the last six years doing just that.

Now I am excited to have some new challenges at the Historic Huntley house in addition to continuing to enjoy both natural and historical interpretation at Huntley Meadows Park.

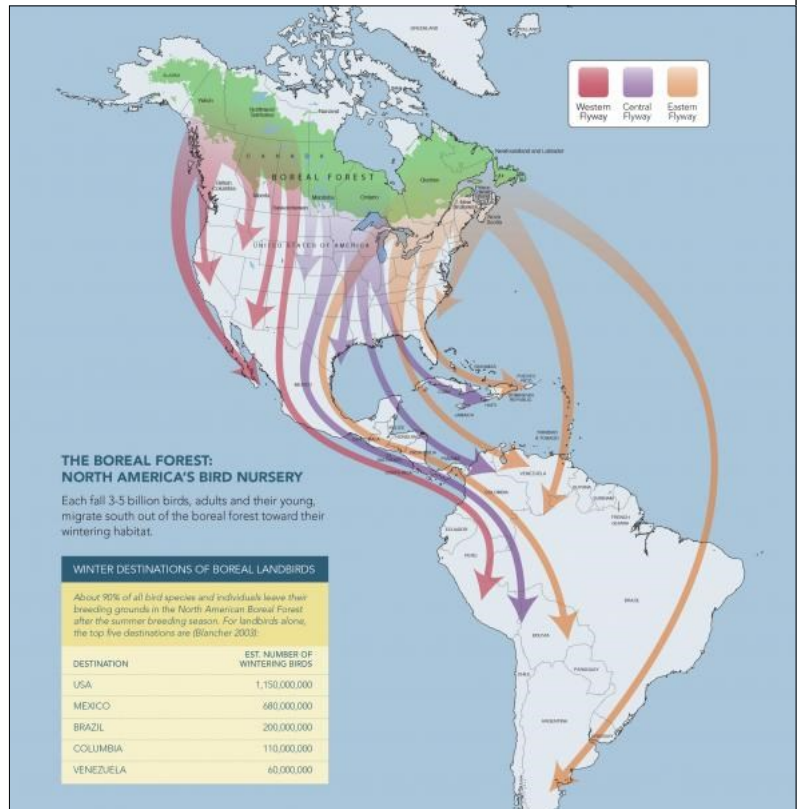
## Monday Morning Bird Walk

When we consider birds in winter, we are often only discussing those species that spend their winters in our region. But to fully understand the wintering of most birds, we must look at the full range of wintering habitat in both North and South America. Some argue that the greatest threat to many North American birds occurs south of the United States/Mexican border. At current growth rates, the population in tropical America will double during this century, meaning that the remaining areas of undisturbed natural environment will be greatly reduced. Especially harmful to North American songbirds will be the continuing destruction of the tropical rain forest. Many rain forests are being cleared for grazing land to raise cattle to provide cheap meat for the fast food diet of North America.

Additionally, the estuarine and wetland habitats needed by migrating species are lost as populations grow. Finally, those pesticides most dangerous to birds that are controlled in the United States are not regulated as well in the tropical countries of South and Central America.

In short, much of needed winter territory for western hemisphere birds is going fast. The preservation of many of the bird species we like to call 'ours' rests on our ability to help the people of Latin America to save their habitats. Of course, the same can be said of the people of the United States.

Harry Glasgow



Picture Source: Boreal Songbird initiative

Common Yellowthroat



*The Monday Morning Bird Walk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows Park since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7AM (8AM from November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the Park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria, VA. Questions should be directed to Park staff during normal business hours at (703)768-2525.*

## Historic Huntley News

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH) Ushers in Expanded Mission: Preserving Historic Huntley and Related Cultural Resources through Advocacy and Education

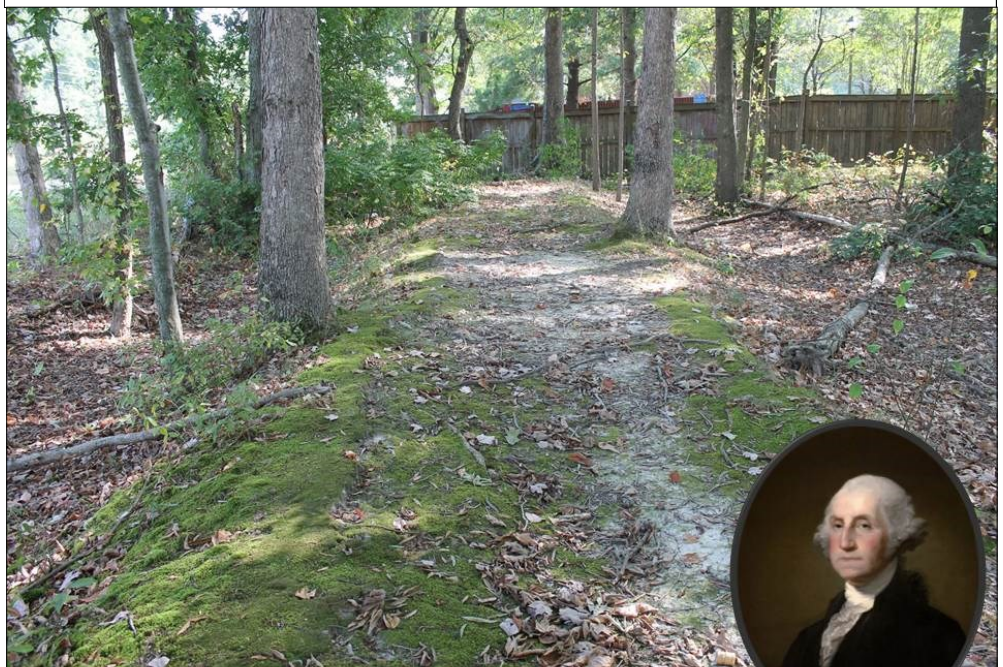
For the Huntley community, this has certainly been a banner year of celebration, marking the 40<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Huntley Meadows Park (HMP), the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP), and the FOHH, respectively. In quieter moments, these milestones have also been a cause for reflection about the course traveled in years past and about the course to be charted into the future. To formally harness such reflections, an ad hoc FOHH committee convened a special August meeting in the Watson Reading Room of Old Town's Alexandria Black History Museum (which, by the way, has an associated non-adjointing wetlands property). There, within the city previously governed by Huntley's T. F. Mason as mayor of Alexandria, committee members deliberated over the mission statement guiding FOHH activities.

That mission statement focused primarily on the preservation of Historic Huntley. Consistent with this statement, the efforts of FOHH for most of its 25-year history were directed towards obtaining County restoration of the Huntley villa and opening it to the public. That happy event finally occurred in May 2012. The question before the ad hoc committee was how FOHH should continue to direct its energies in support of Historic Huntley. The committee recognized that Huntley's story encompasses not just the structures at 6918 Harrison Lane, but additional artifacts and properties. For example, the southern boundaries of T.F. Mason's original landholdings are demarcated by double-ditch fencing put in place by President George Washington. In addition, T.F. Mason's brother, Richard Chichester, built a neighboring home ("Oakley") on property adjacent to that of T.F.

Both the double-ditch fencing and the remains of Oakley are encompassed within the boundaries of Huntley Meadows Park. Located on an island of greenspace amidst an urban sea of increasing population pressures, these cultural resources face the same development threats that all resources located on undeveloped property face today. To ensure that these and other tangible aspects of Huntley's story are not lost for lack of vigilance, the committee crafted the following statement as the proposed FOHH mission: "To preserve Historic Huntley *and related cultural resources* through advocacy and education."

Just three days after the full Board of FOHH adopted this mission statement verbatim, it was put into action. FOHH and FOHMP sent a joint Friends letter to Mr. Kirk Kincannon, Fairfax County Park Authority Director, seeking proper identification, accounting, and preservation of the double-ditch fencing. The County initiated an archaeological study within a week of the letter's receipt. So begins the march down the road to future anniversaries of HMP, FOHMP, and FOHH. It promises to be a journey of challenges, accomplishments, and camaraderie as we all draw together to protect not only HMP's natural resources, but also Historic Huntley's related cultural resources within HMP.

Photo courtesy Debbie Robison showing recent photo of the double ditches today.



George Washington's Double Ditch

# News & Announcements

## Photo Show

Congratulations to winners of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park photo contest! We also thank everyone who submitted photos; we truly love to see the Park through your eyes every year.

We invite everyone to come to the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center auditorium and view all of the submitted photos. The photos will be on display until mid-February 2016.

Our photo contest judges this year were photographer Mike DuBois and Friends of Huntley Meadows Park Board Member Doug Mason. They judged the photos based on composition, technical effects, and subject matter. A summary of their critiques and thoughts will be available for visitors to read as they view the show.

Please see Page 9 for a full list of photo contest winners, honorable mentions, and special categories.

**First Place Winner** - *Barred Owl on a Snowy Day* by Tyler A. Reber



### **A MESSAGE FOR OUR FRIENDS:**

Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) is planning to replace an aging 230 Kilovolt (kv) transmission line along a 2.6 mile stretch between its Belvoir and Gum Springs Substations in Fairfax County. This project is located directly on Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) Property along the southern boundary within an already established Dominion easement.

As you might imagine, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP) and Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH) are monitoring this project very closely. We are committed to ensuring there are no adverse impacts to the sensitive natural, cultural, and historic resources in HMP, especially in and adjacent to the project area.

For details on this project please see: <https://www.dom.com/corporate/what-we-do/electricity/transmission-lines-and-projects/belvoir-gum-springs-230kv-rebuild>

How can our Friends help?

- Sign up for the e-mail list to receive regular notices about this project.
- Monitor the web sites for Dominion and the Virginia State Corporation Commission ( <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/> ) for updates to keep you informed.
- Attend public meetings and/or provide written comments reinforcing the need for Dominion and their contractors to protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources present in and around the area.

At a recent public meeting, Dominion project staff expressed their commitment to working in partnership with FOHMP, FOHH, and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to avoid damaging the sensitive resources in the easement area. We thank Dominion staff in advance and look forward to working closely with them as the project progresses.

If you see something that seems amiss we invite you to say something to the HMP Park staff or send us an e-mail at [friendsofhmp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhmp@gmail.com). While the FOHMP Board of Directors and the HMP and FCPA staff are working hard to stay on top of any issues, we appreciate your observations that will contribute to the successful completion of this project on HMP property.



## Friends of Huntley Meadows Park Photo Show Contest Winners

### Adult Entry's

**First Place - *Barred Owl on a Snowy Day*** by Tyler A. Reber

**Second Place - *Baby's Got Blue Eyes*** by Michael Q. Powell

**Third Place - *Drama in Black & White*** by Risha Isom

### Youth Entry's

**First Place - *Ant's Eye View*** by Bayan Peikari

**Second Place - *Diamonds on the Lake*** by Mattin Peikari

**Third Place - *The Sun Peers through the Tall Fall Trees as the Sun Rises*** by Galen June

### Honorable Mentions

***Reflecting Yellowlegs*** by Tyler A. Reber

***Butterfly on Milkweed*** by Tyler A. Reber

***Hello World!*** by Mary Rabadan

***American Carrion Beetles*** by Mark Jette

***Prothonotary Warbler*** by Ron Clabbers

**Best Abstract Photo - *Winter Reflection*** by Kay Rankin

**Best Depiction of Wildlife in Its Natural Habitat - *Eat Your Greens*** by Risha Isom

**Best Humor - *The Getaway*** by Robert Currie

## A Remembrance

It is with fond memories and all due respect that we note the recent passing of our classroom Eastern Kingsnake. These snakes are large (36-72"), shiny-black, smooth-scaled, and with distinctive white chain-link bands that vary in width in different geographic populations. Females can lay up to several dozen eggs in mid summer with the young hatching in late summer.

The Huntley Meadows Kingsnake was confirmed to be a female having laid ~15 eggs in April of 2015. As she was a captive snake and lived all year in a relatively stable climate, it is not surprising that she produced eggs out of sync with the natural world. The eggs were unviable as they did not have a chance to become fertilized.

Eastern Kingsnakes have one of the largest geographic ranges of any North American snake species, are nonvenomous constrictors, thrive in many terrestrial habitats as well as in areas close to water. They eat a variety of prey, including lizards, rodents, birds, turtle eggs, and even other snakes. Eastern Kingsnakes are immune to the venom of other snakes in their range.



Huntley Meadows Park's Eastern Kingsnake

The Huntley Meadows resident Kingsnake was an important part of instruction in various classes at the Park for over 15 years, giving visitors of all ages a rare close up view of wildlife. This particular Kingsnake was placed in a living location within the classroom that allowed for it to be seen from the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center vestibule. She was a popular member of the Park's limited number of live wildlife representatives, and an exciting greeter for all visitors. She will be missed by many.

Note: Park Staff is in the process of procuring another Eastern Kingsnake from a reputable source.

## Huntley Meadows Park Programs

All programs **require reservations**, unless free. Sign up online using Parktakes. Search "Huntley" at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes), or call 703-222-4664. For help, call Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525.

### Series Programs

#### **Nature for Tiny Tots**

(Ages 2 – 3 1/2) Children and their parents learn about plants, animals, and their habitats through songs, crafts, and activities. Supply fee of \$5 is due to instructor at first class. Adult participation is required. Six week series, 10:00-11:00am beginning Monday, January 11 or Thursday, January 14, \$66  
Registration code: 3401672001, 3401672002

#### **Young Explorers**

(Ages 6-12) Through activities, crafts, journals and trail walks, students learn about animals and how nature is preparing for the changing season. Students also learn about the Park and improve their observation and interaction skills. Students should dress for the weather. Six week sessions 4:00-5:30pm starting Monday, January 11, \$79  
Registration code: 3401702601

#### **Winter Wanderers**

(Ages 7-12) Come experience the Park in winter. Wander through the frosty wetland and watch the dancing ducks as they start their new courtships. Experience the wonders of crafty crows and hunting hawks as they master the winter here at the Park. As you wander through the woods, look for deer, foxes and raccoons as well as their tracks which may lead to where they have hunkered down to stay warm. You'll be amazed at what adaptations animals have honed to survive this winter wonderland. Six week session 4:00-5:30pm starting Wednesday, January 13, \$79  
Registration code: 3401702701

#### **Nature Sleuths**

(Ages 5-6) Children explore various habitats through hikes, hands-on investigations, stories and the creations of their own nature journal. Additional supply fee of \$5 payable to instructor at first class. The class will meet on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30pm for six weeks beginning January 13, \$79  
Registration code: 3401648902

#### **Nature Detectives**

(Ages 3-5) During this naturalist-led class, children and parents get the opportunity to explore the natural world through hikes, stories, songs, crafts and other hands-on activities. Additional supply fee of \$5 payable to instructor at first class. The class will meet on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00am or on Thursdays from 1:00-2:00pm for six weeks beginning January 13 and 14, \$66  
Registration code: 3401663301 or 3401663302

#### **Science for Homeschoolers**

(Ages 6-9) Students explore marsh, meadow, and forest to learn about patterns of change, plant characteristics, animal life needs, and observation. Basic reading and writing skills required and must be comfortable working in a group. Six week series, beginning Wednesday, January 13 or Thursday,

January 14. 1:30-3:00pm, \$79

Registration Code: 3401703001 or 3401703002

#### **Homeschoolers at Huntley **\*\*At Historic Huntley\*\*****

(Ages 6-9) Students see the history of Huntley, Northern VA and the Chesapeake region come alive while they use the house museum of Historic Huntley as their classroom. Each week students learn about a different aspect of American history. Students must have basic reading and writing skills and be comfortable working in a group. Six week series 1:30-3:00pm beginning Thursday, January 14, \$79  
Registration code: 5781866701

### Adult and Family Programs

#### **December**

**12 Saturday - Boardwalk Astronomy** - (Ages 12-Adults), 6:00-7:30pm. What's new in the night sky? Join Park naturalists as they take you on a tour of constellations, comets and other current events happening in the heavens above, \$6.  
Registration code: 3404865102

**13 Sunday - FOHMP Photography Contest Opening** - 1:00-3:00pm. Enjoy this year's winning entries from the Friends of Huntley Meadows' annual photography contest. Sponsored by FOHMP. FREE

**19 Saturday - Owl Outing** - (Adults), 4:30-6:30pm. These nocturnal raptors are pair-bonding and looking for nesting sites at this time of year. Prowl the Park after dark to listen for and learn about our local owls, and possibly see a barred owl. Meet at the Visitor Center and dress for the weather and standing off trail, \$7.  
Registration code: 3404866602

#### **January**

**3 Sunday - Sketch Hike: Winter Trees and Landscapes** (Ages 12-Adults), 1:00-3:00pm. Join Park naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler for a hike and learn sketching techniques to enhance your observation skills, \$7.  
Registration code: 3401027704

**9 Saturday - Evening Walk** - (Adults), 4:30-6:30pm. Join naturalist PJ Dunn to hike the trails after dark, looking and listening for owls, beavers and other night animals, \$7.  
Registration code: 3401881804

**10 Sunday - Birding for Beginners - Woodpeckers** - (Ages 12-Adults), 8:00-11:00am. As they drum and drill on trees woodpeckers are seeking shelter, food or a mate. Come learn about woodpecker biology and behavior, how to attract them to your yard and see if you can spot some of the seven species that can be found in the Park, at our feeders and on the trail, \$8.  
Registration code: 3401879604

## January `Cont'd`

**11 Monday - Four Seasons at Huntley - Coffee Table Book** (Adults), 1:30-3:30pm. Come visit the wetlands in similar places and patterns four different seasons of the year to create a 'A Year in the Life of Huntley Meadows' coffee table book to share with family and friends. Choose your media to bring with you; camera, sketchbook, etc. Two classes offered per season for your choosing, \$7.

Registration code: 3401036201

**15 Friday - Flora Fauna Formulas: Winter** - (Adults), 6:00-7:30PM. See 2/12, \$6.

Registration code: 3401036001

**16 Saturday - Wetland Dynamics** - (Adults), 9:00-11:00am. Come investigate the inner workings of the wetland through a discussion and walk! What are the key building blocks of these diverse habitats? What are the special characteristics of the flora and fauna that depend on them? Come, discover and appreciate. Eight week series class, \$121.

Registration code: 3401700801

**Winter Tree ID** - (Ages 12-Adults), 1:30-3:30pm. Do you know your sweet gum from your hickory? Come learn winter tree identification basics and go for a hike to practice new skills, \$7.

Registration code: 3401027804

**17 Sunday - Snow Big Deal** - (Ages 3-17), 1:00-3:00pm. Blizzards, freezing rain, frigid temperatures - Find out how wild animals stay safe and snug while winter weather deals its worst. Enjoy an indoor presentation and animal homes hike expedition, and then make a craft to take home, \$7.

Registration code: 3401025001

**23 Saturday - Dive into Dragonflies** - (Adults), 2:00-3:30pm. Discover the diverse world of dragonflies - their amazing powers of flight, voracious appetite and the many different species that call Northern Virginia home. Leave with a list of the top ten parks to spot them as well as information on how to create the perfect dragonfly pond at home, \$6.

Registration code: 3401880601

**24 Sunday - Live Animal Lunchtime!** - (Ages 3-adults), 12:00-1:30pm. Bring your lunch and dine with a special animal guest; a snake, turtle or toad! Learn about their diets, adaptations, and habitats through crafts and hands-on learning for adults and children. Dessert is our treat! Children under 16 years old must be accompanied by a registered adult, \$8.

Registration code: 3401036101

**29 Friday - Flora Fauna Formulas: Winter** - (Adults), 6:00-7:30pm. See 2/12, \$6.

Registration code: 3401036002

**30 Saturday - Tune in to Nature News** - (Ages 8-Adults), 4:00-6:00pm. Tune in to the latest nature headline! Get in-depth reporting out in the field about the latest eco-updates throughout Huntley's habitats. Don't miss each unique broadcast and walk! Children 8 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult, \$7.

Registration code: 3401036301

**Evening Stroll** - (Ages 6-Adults), 5:00-7:00PM. See 2/20, \$7.

Registration code: 3401827903

## February

**6 Saturday - Winter Tree ID** - (Ages 12-Adults), 1:30-3:30pm. See 1/16, \$7.

Registration code: 3401027803

**Evening Walk** - (Adults), 5:00-7:00pm. See 1/9, \$7.

Registration code: 3401881805

**7 Sunday - Birding for Beginners: Winter Birds** - (Ages 12-Adults), 8:00-11:00am. Interested in winter birding? Learn about the winter birds found in the Park plus some basic identification skills. Program begins with an indoor discussion. Children ages 12 to 16 years must be accompanied by a registered adult, \$8.

Registration code: 3401837403

**Winter Hike-Marvelous Meadows** - (Ages 7-Adults), 2:00-3:30pm. Chase away your winter blues with a walk on the `other side` of the Park. Come look for winter hawks, waterfowl, bluebirds and finches while exploring the Park's native meadows and wetland overlooks. Meets at the South Kings Hwy. entrance. Children must be accompanied by an adult, \$6.

Registration code: 3401881001

**11 Thursday - Genealogy-Where Do You Come From?** - (Adults), 7:30-9:00pm Are you overwhelmed with stories of your family' exploits or is your family's past in an unknown country? Join us to learn some tips and tricks to start your genealogical exploration, \$30.

Registration code: 3401088102

**12 Friday - Flora Fauna Formulas: Winter** - (Adults), 6:00-7:30pm. Have you ever wondered about the unique relationships between plant and animal pairs in the forest or wetlands? Join us for a closer look at these fascinating dependencies. Each walk and discussion will feature a different flora - fauna pair, \$6.

Registration code: 3401036003

**13 Saturday - Sketch Hike: Winter Trees and Landscapes** - (Ages 12-Adults), 10:00am-12:00pm. See 1/3, \$7.

Registration code: 3401027703

**20 Saturday - Evening Stroll** - (Ages 6-Adults), 5:00-7:00pm. Come for a relaxing stroll through the Park at dusk. A naturalist takes you on a tour of the woods and wetlands to watch and listen for beavers, owls and other nocturnal residents, \$7.

Registration code: 3401827904

**22 Monday - Live Animal Lunchtime!** - (Ages 3-adults), 12:00-1:30pm See 1/24, \$8.

Registration code: 3401036104

**26 Friday - Flora Fauna Formulas: Winter** - (Adults), 6:00-7:30pm. See 2/12, \$6.

Registration code: 3401036007

**27 Saturday - Tune into Nature News** - (Ages 8-Adults), 4:00-6:00pm. See 1/30, \$7.

Registration code: 3401036302

**Evening Woodcock Walk** - (Adults), 5:30-7:00pm. Take an evening stroll through the forest to one of the Park's largest meadows. We'll listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his amazing courtship dance and flight. Bring a flashlight. Meet in South Kings Highway parking lot. Canceled if rain, \$6.

Registration code: 3401834001

**28 Sunday - Live Animal Lunchtime!** - (Ages 3-adults), 12:00-1:30pm See 1/24, \$8.

Registration code: 3401036105

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

Please support Huntley Meadows Park by joining our Friends group. Dues contribute toward funding new initiatives and programs, and your membership support will help us to be stronger advocates for the Park.

Fill out this form and mail the application to:

**Dues information (Annual):**

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

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

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

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

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_



Alternatively you can use our PayPal feature on the Membership page of our website <http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/membership.html>.



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