

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



September 2011

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

Ode to the Boardwalk by Kathi McNeil

Oh wetland, wetland
how can we help?
We ask, cajole, manage
And you wisely continue on your chosen path
in spite of all that surrounds you.

A wetland and a boardwalk
entwined and old friends who fit comfortably
within my mind and my heart.
Never what I expect, but always something I love.

A sycamore stands guard
weathered and broken, but alive.
Shelter for all creatures,
curiosity for all others.
Cattails embrace the wooden path
as it meanders along its way.

Dragonflies, turtles and beaver dams
mingle with the fresh smell of mud as it rises.
It surrounds me as I walk
scraping the old boards, splintered and gray
that have held so many before me.

Open arms, open water, cool and fresh
Layers of life, green, gold and green again
building a fortress protecting all that abide
and offering sustenance for body and soul.

A privilege to walk on water.
Eighteen years of ooh's and aah's
each old board holds memories of hope and fear,
excitement and serenity,
preserved for future generations
and laid down with each new board.



**Photos from the first
Huntley Meadows Park
boardwalk.**

*Above: Youth Conservation
Corp who built the boardwalk*



First boardwalk in winter

*A "dipping" program from
the 80's.*



Park Manager's Message

A Walk on Huntley's Wild Side



Fall is a time of harvest and plenty in forests, wetlands, meadows, and on our own kitchen tables. Many seeds, fruits, grains and vegetables have finally ripened. Wildlife born in spring have matured, and are looking for new territories. This is also a season of movement for many birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians that travel to winter homes. Some migrations may extend many miles while other animals simply find a winter abode in softer mud or in a hollow tree.

Here at Huntley meadows, the fall of 2011 is certainly a time of ripening and movement. Several large projects are either close to fruition, or at least growing heavy on the vine. In the next few years, all sorts of movements and migrations will take place. Our new eco-friendly **boardwalk**, with planks made from recycled plastic, should be completed in October. **Historic Huntley**, the Mason family mansion (c. 1820), will be restored and ready for visitors this fall. The native plant **demonstration gardens** around the Visitor Center will be fully planted by November. Our **Outdoor Classroom** Teaching Pavilion site will be surveyed and ready for groundbreaking in the spring. Lastly, a wetland specialty firm will work this fall and winter on a final design for the **Wetland Restoration Project**. In the winter newsletter, I'll write in more detail about this project, and about the importance of our Wetland Indicator Species data in guiding the restoration. Please be sure to come to one of our free *Park Manager Walk & Talks* to hear about developments and benchmarks of the wetland restoration.

As the months tick away, several key staff members move closer to retirement. We may also face budget issues and additional large project and facility developments. As these and other changes come to this ever-evolving park, we are reminded of our core mission to protect and interpret Huntley's natural and cultural resources. Huntley is public park that functions as a wildlife sanctuary and as a dynamic environmental school for all ages. Our goals of education and preservation are illustrated by the above list of projects, all of which are possible only because of the enduring support of the **Friends of Huntley Meadows Park** and **Friends of Historic Huntley**. Funding, volunteers, advocacy, expertise, planning, and projects develop from your Friends groups. Your valuable assistance allows this park to grow and meet its vital mission. **THANK YOU** for all your help. Please come enjoy the autumn fruits of your labor by visiting the park this fall!

Kevin Munroe

FOHMP News

As of August 1, the FOHMP parking donation program has been in operation for just under 4 months and we have collected \$4,200. WOW! The program has run smoothly with virtually no complaints. These funds will be used for educational programming, resource management projects, special projects and park operations at Huntley Meadows Park. We are pretty pleased with the results, especially the fact that we are diversifying our revenue base.

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park has made a financial commitment to HMP of \$10,000 for the construction of an outdoor classroom. This will be of great value to our program leaders and the groups that they are working with. With your generous response to this year's appeal letter, we are well on our way to reaching our financial goal. Our Mastenbrook grant application for matching funds of \$10,000 to build the outdoor classroom has been approved and we look forward to getting that project started this fiscal year.

In July, I attended a cook-out sponsored by Dave Lawlor and his crew and had the privilege of meeting the three interns and the summer RMD seasonal we've had at HMP this summer. Julia, Nicole, Nora and Brent have all worked hard for the Park this summer and I think they feel that HMP "worked" for them! On your behalf, I thanked them for their valuable contributions and wished them the best in their future adventures.

Kathi McNeil



Park Manager Walk and Talk

Saturday September 17, October 15, November 19

Join Kevin Munroe on a walk to share questions and learn about the wildlife for which the park is known. Reservations, 703-768-2525. 4 to 6 p.m. Free

Birth of a Wetland

Saturday October 1, 10 a.m.-noon.

Walk along woodland streams with Kevin tracing the wetland from its beginning in the Woodstone neighborhood down Barnyard Run to the marsh boardwalk. Reservations. \$6



Huntley Meadows Park News



Nicki Merz, Resource Management Intern

My biology degree from Christopher Newport University was geared strongly towards naturalism and eco-restoration. Courses such as Ecology, Herpetology and Ornithology educated me in areas I had always been interested in. My work in the Center for Wetland Conservation and course fieldwork gave me experience in many wetland ecosystems from coastal wetlands to the Great Dismal Swamp. I was sad to give up these experiences upon graduation.

Over the summer, I visited Huntley Meadows regularly, and was excited to see a posting for a summer internship at the park. When I met Dave Lawlor, I knew I could learn a lot from him and from working in the park. I was interested in learning more about birds and reptiles, but I never expected to learn as much as I have. Working in the park always turns up unexpected surprises such as spotted turtles and eastern worm snakes, and I learned more about birds from Melina Kendrick Kye than I could have hoped. I also learned to identify dozens of benthic macroinvertebrates and many tree species in the park.

I am especially appreciative of the target bird species project on which I worked. For several years HMP has been working towards restoring the wetland. The target species are a critical aspect of the Wetland Restoration Project and the habitat needs of these species has served as the primary guide for management decisions. I had the idea to look at the target bird population trends over the past 25 years, and was allowed to follow this project through to fruition. I may even have the opportunity to continue to work on this project after my internship is over! For all the incredible experiences I have had this summer, I would like to thank the Friends of Huntley Meadows and the many Birdathon donors for this opportunity.

Julia Loman, Naturalist Intern

I have had an amazing summer here as the naturalist intern. I am heading into my second year at the University of Virginia this fall as a biology and studio art double-major. I have always been an artist and interested in science as well, so I am excited about chances to have the two come together. My love for both nature and art has made this internship a perfect fit; there have been ample opportunities to use my creative skills to make crafts and posters for the children's programs that I helped with. This has been a great opportunity to start working in nature, as I'm interested in a career in environmental science.

Through teaching kids in camps and programs and helping out at the Visitor Center, I've learned so much about teaching and how the nature preserve works! I had the pleasure of helping out with four weeks of nature camps for kids, during which I became much more confident in my teaching abilities, in addition to learning a lot myself! During camp for 4-6 year olds, I was mostly an assistant and designed some of the crafts. The next camps were for 6-9 year olds, and I taught a lesson on insect coloration followed by a butterfly painting craft. It was great to see the kids' enthusiasm about what I was teaching! I also led a Young Explorer's program for 6-9 year olds, during which we did a wetland cleanup at Little Hunting Creek. The kids had an awesome time getting wet in the creek, and we all felt good about helping the park.

Huntley Meadows is an amazing place, and I am so grateful that I have been able to spend the summer here learning and teaching! It is such a special community, with so much knowledge and an unparalleled love and respect for nature. I would like to thank Friends of Huntley Meadows Park for this wonderful experience!

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

<i>Kenneth and Judith Alnwick</i>	<i>Jeremy Latimer</i>
<i>Kathleen Blanco-Losoda</i>	<i>Aimee Litwiller and Thomas</i>
<i>Stuart and Pamela Davis</i>	<i>Nordby</i>
<i>Corey Hastings</i>	<i>Chuck and Sandy Murphy</i>
<i>Deborah Hammer</i>	<i>Paul W. Wyman</i>

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

Many thanks to these final 2011 Birdathon donors:

<i>Sheila Dacey</i>	<i>Donald and Nancy Richardson</i>
<i>Barbara Helm</i>	<i>Lynn Scarlett</i>
<i>Colette Hodes</i>	<i>Lee Stang</i>
<i>Phillip and Ann Jesup</i>	<i>Barbara Stewart</i>
<i>Robert and Lee Ann Kinzer</i>	<i>Andrew Stifler</i>
<i>Jim Mathews</i>	<i>John and Paula Sullivan</i>
<i>Barbara Perry</i>	<i>Carolyn Williams</i>
<i>Anders Price</i>	

We have raised \$3,230 with your help. Thanks again to all who donated to the Birdathon. Your support funded this year's resource management intern.

Fall Art News

Capturing Nature's Beauty

Nature Photography by Marilyn Aber

September 12 to October 31

Reception on Sunday September 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Multi-faceted artist and photographer, Marilyn Aber, grew up observing nature in a small village in upstate New York. She has lived in many places since then and has continued to learn about her surroundings, both man-made and natural. She has enjoyed numerous art classes and always travels with sketchbooks and cameras in hand to document what catches her interest.

Her artistic accomplishments include a career in graphics which began in the commercial arts, designing and illustrating for print. She has used a variety of artistic media, including paints, pens, inks, color pencils, watercolors, markers, and pastels. She has designed wall hangings in macramé and created sculptures with papier mache and clay. She now finds playing in the digital art world quite fascinating.

Marilyn's show at Huntley Meadows is on display through October and features a passion of hers: the world of the monarch butterfly.



*Monarch on milkweed
pod*



Friends of Huntley Meadows Park 2011 Photography Contest

Give Us Your Best Shot!

Entries due November 2 to 16

Awards reception December 11, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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 2-16, 2011**. No late entries will be accepted. A panel of judges will select photos from the pool of contest entries. Selected photos will be exhibited at the HMP Visitor Center from December 11, 2011 to February 29, 2012. 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 each photo, maximum submission is **4**. 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 11 or by February 29, 2012.

Award Categories

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and Honorable Mentions.

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

Huntley Meadows Happenings

Wild Side Wagon Ride!

Sundays: September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, and November 5

Rides depart at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Take an exciting 90-minute interpretive ride with a park naturalist to parts of the park that are difficult to reach on foot. Look for and learn about songbirds, wildflowers, butterflies, and waterfowl. Stop for a snack at the observation platform. \$6

(For Families with children ages 6 and up)

Café Cattail

Friday, September 23, 7-9:30 p.m.

Café Cattail is an open mike coffeehouse for nature lovers. Original poetry, sing along rounds, dance and musical performances by people ages 5 to 85 are enjoyed at this quarterly event. The community atmosphere harkens back to the days before TV and radio, when family and friends entertained each other. Please join us and share in the joy of celebrating nature through the arts. Free.

“Inspired by Nature”

EcoVoce Multi-media Concert

Sunday, September 25, 2011, 3-4 p.m.

EcoVoce musicians (soprano Denise Free-land, flutist Susan Hayes, pianist Narciso Solero) take audiences on a musical journey, performing interpretations of songs about butterflies, global warming, birds, forests, and other aspects of the natural world. Cosponsored by Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, the concert features music and multimedia inspired by the setting of Huntley Meadows. Your purchase of a \$20 ticket benefits the Park’s education efforts.



Night Walk

Saturday, October 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Visit the park at a time rarely seen by the public. Walk through the woods to the wetland with naturalist PJ Dunn, looking for hunting bats and working beavers. \$6



Fall Birds and Bagels

Saturday, October 15, 8 –11 a.m.

Join Andy Higgs for an early morning walk in search of resident and migrating birds, then relax and recap the sightings while enjoying some coffee and bagels. Binoculars and field guides recommended. This is an FOHMP-sponsored program. \$8

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

Saturday, October 15, 9-11:30 a.m.

Help clean litter near the park to prevent it from washing into the wetland. Meet at Visitor Center to sign-in and pick up trash bags. Bring gloves and dress for the weather. Students may earn community service credit.

Birding for Beginners

Sunday, October 16, 8-11 a.m.

Interested in birding? We can help you get started! Learn about the birds in the park and some basic identification skills. Program begins with an indoor discussion. Ages 12 to adult. \$6



Birding for Beginners

Sunday November 20, 8-11 a.m.

Observe the transition of our bird community as the summer breeding population moves south and winter residents arrive. A park naturalist helps you sharpen your bird identification skills. Ages 12 to adult. \$6

Just for Kids

Nature for Tiny Tots

Tuesday September 6, 9:30-10:15 or 11-11:45 a.m.

During this eight-week series, 2 – 3 ½ year olds with their parents explore seasonal nature topics through stories, songs, games, walks and other activities. Meets bi-weekly. (24-42 months) \$71

Nature Detectives Series

Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Through stories, activities and crafts, explore seasonal nature topics in this four-week series. The class meets on: September 28, October 5, 12, and 26. (3 – 5 years) \$32. Call the park to register.

Young Explorers Series

Monday 3-4:30 p.m. beginning September 21

Through activities and walks, learn about seasonal changes in the park over this six-week series. No class on October 10. Call the park to register. (6-9yrs.) \$76

Young Naturalist Series

Tuesdays 3:30-5 p.m. beginning September 22

Through activities and walks, learn about seasonal changes in the park over this six-week series. Call the park to register. (9-12yrs.) \$86

All programs require reservations unless they are free. Sign-ups can now be done online at the Parktakes site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes. Or call 703-222-4664. For help or information, call Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525.

***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. Dues help fund new initiatives and programs and your membership will help us to be stronger 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: _____

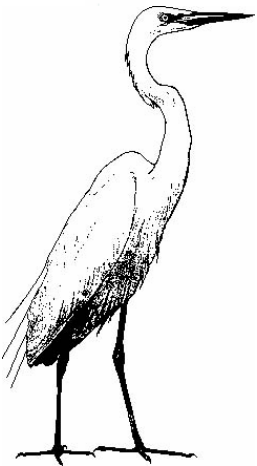
Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



Friends of Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd
Alexandria, VA 22306
703-768-2525



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