

FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK



OCTOBER 2006

E-MAIL ADDRESS: info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

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

Note From the President

Thanks to all of you who attended the FOHMP Annual Meeting in June! We had a lovely reception recognizing the Lifetime Members with cake, punch and certificates! It was followed with a walk in the Park which proved to be quite exciting and beautiful. Highlights included several groups of deer grazing in the wetland, Fowler's Toads and Green Tree Frogs calling, 34 species of birds, Snapping and Painted Turtles and a Ribbon Snake. We all enjoyed it so much that we've decided to do it again! Our 2006-07 Annual Meeting and walk will be at HMP on Saturday, June 16, 7-9pm. Mark your calendars!

I hope that you all enjoyed the summer and now are ready to step into fall. Take a look at the program offerings and happenings at HMP now through November. Perhaps there is something there for you. Come take a walk. The wetland will soon don its browns and golds, sprinkled with a bit of yellow, orange and red. The White-throated Sparrow returns with its reassuring call and the beavers become much more industrious and visible.

As always, Thanks to You, for your support of Huntley Meadows Park and I hope that you will visit the Park soon and often.

Kathi McNeil

Park Manager's Message

For the past 30 years, the Huntley Meadows Park patrons have visited the park to experience its unique wetlands. The park is regionally recognized and admired for its diversity of wildlife and visitor accessibility to aquatic flora and fauna. In 1988, Defenders magazine (a national publication) listed Huntley Meadows Park as one of the nation's top 25 birding hotspots.

Park Authority staff recognized the possibility of the beaver moving around over time and commissioned a study in the early 1980s to make recommendations on wetlands management in order to maintain wetlands in the center of the park in support of the 1976 master plan. The TAMS Consultants, Inc. report recommended constructing a water control device to allow staff to manipulate water levels, independent of the beaver, to manage the central wetland. In addition, removal of many tons of accumulated silt and reshaping the wetlands to reintroduce diversity of habitat types is critical to long-term function and success.

Beginning in the late 1980s, large-scale development upstream of the park, with poorly constructed and maintained erosion and sediment controls, sent up to 18 inches of silt into the Huntley wetlands. These occurrences sparked outrage by many citizens and gained the attention of numerous local officials. With the loss of depth due to the siltation,

many wildlife species began to disappear or become less numerous. In the last several years the beaver reduced maintenance of the primary dam as they concentrated on downstream areas, resulting in dramatic drops in water levels with the central wetland drying up completely in the summer of 2005.

A project team convened in September 2005 to develop a vision and scope. The Planning and Development Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and the Department of Planning and Zoning then reviewed the vision and scope and approved the approach and desired outcomes.

This project is also consistent with the 1976 Huntley Meadows Park Master Plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan which seeks to protect and preserve the wetlands in Huntley Meadows and Dogue Creek and recognizes them as being unique and irreplaceable for their positive water quality and wildlife value.

The project team entered into an open-ended contract with Burgess & Niple, Inc. for involvement in project administration services. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. will assist in providing quality review services for the project. Staff anticipates that the project may involve the following aspects:

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

- Implementation of a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan to measure success and control exotic invasive species.

The preliminary cost estimate for Phase I of the project is \$700,000. The first phase will include a topographical survey, hydrologic and soils analysis, a wetland management plan, environmental assessment, public meetings, design and construction plans, permitting, and water control structure. Phase II will involve the removal and stabilization of the accumulated silt/soils, sculpting of the wetland, re-vegetation and continued implementation of the monitoring and maintenance programs. Phase II implementation is predicated on obtaining additional funding to support this project.

Gary Roisum
Park Manager

“On the Edge, The Potomac River’s Dyke Marsh”

October 22, 3pm, HMP Visitor Center

Come see this new documentary film which has been screened at both The Kennedy Center and Alexandria’s Old Town Theatre. Filmmaker Dave Eckert, of Virginia Village Productions has received praise for his highly professional, informative and entertaining film. The film explores the history of Dyke Marsh, its birds, fish, plants and other natural resources. It includes comments by Senator John Warner and Congressman Jim Moran, among others. This film is dedicated to preservation work of the Friends of Dyke Marsh past-presidents, Ed Risley and Jeb Byrne. Please call the visitor center at 703 768-2525 to reserve your seat!

Annual Meeting Photos

Thanks to Harry Glasgow for the following photographs of the annual meeting.



“Why is it called Lockheed Blvd?”

Huntley’s Airport History

We are planning a joint program for FOHHP and FOHH on Sunday, November the 5th, at 3 pm. This program will be at the Huntley Meadows Park visitors center.

As most of you know, the land that our park now sits on, was initially pieced together for the purpose of building the first international airport in the Washington area. This was back in the late 1920’s, and while things did not go exactly as planned, without this venture of joining the various farms under one ownership, our park might not exist today.

While on this airport theme, we will discuss two other early airports that are within a mile or two of our park. Some of you oldtimers to the area may know where these lost airfields are located, but for the rest, you will just have to come and find out!!

Paul Freeman, an airport enthusiast (especially old and abandoned ones), will be our guest speaker. Paul has traveled our country in his own air-

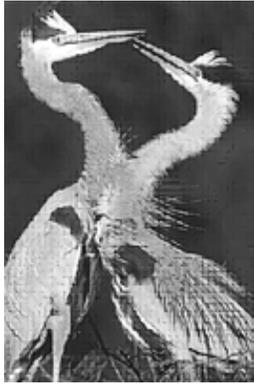
plane taking photos and learning airport history. His insights into early aviation history, plus many old photos that we are gathering, should be an interesting subject to us all.

So mark those calendars for this unique history lesson of our park and our area. Please call the visitor center at 703-768-2525 to make your reservation.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Time to come out and clean up the roadside along Lockheed Blvd. and Harrison Lane . Dress for the weather and bring gloves. We’ll provide water and refreshments. Meet at the visitor center at 9 am on November 18 and we’ll finish up by 11am. Please call the visitor center at 703-768-2525 and let them know that you are coming. Thanks for your help!

Nature Photography by Jeff Shulman
September through November



Spectacular, poster-sized wildlife portraits and Huntley Meadows landscapes are enlivening the Visitor Center with brilliant color and detail.

Each image has been carefully captured, developed, mounted, and laminated by Florida-based nature photographer Jeff Shulman.

30" x 40", 16"x20" and 11"x14" images are available for purchase or may be ordered directly from Jeff Shulman. 20% of sales will be donated to Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park
2006 Photo Contest

Entry forms and information available at the Visitor Center
or at <http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org>

Submissions due between November 1st and 15th.

Reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday, December 10th.

Photos on exhibit through February 28th in the auditorium.



Wooden bowl, handcrafted
by local woodworker
Don Johnson. Salvaged from 112-year-old
Historic Huntley white oak.
Valued at \$200.

Friends of Historic Huntley
RAFFLE

Drawing at the Historic Huntley
Open House, October 15, 2006.
Enter at Huntley Meadows Park

1 ticket for \$5
3 tickets for \$10

All proceeds donated to
Historic Huntley Restoration Fund.

Fish Sampling at Huntley Meadows

On September 7, Huntley Meadows staff and staff from DPWES set up a fish sampling station in the southwest portion of the park. Dave Lawlor, Resource Manager, requested this in order to measure biodiversity and to check for the presence of snakeheads, an invasive species of fish from Asia. Snakeheads have been reported just downstream from the park in Dogue Creek under the Route 1 bridge.

Two electro-shockers were used to cover the selected 100-meter section of stream. Huntley Meadows staff Dave Lawlor, Danielle McCallum, Michelle Jusino and Suzanne Malone assisted with fish netting. Unfortunately, conditions were less than ideal due to elevated water levels which allowed fish more escape routes in the turbid deep pools. This resulted in far fewer fish being collected than anticipated. However, a good number of species and biomass were collected and released, except for the 17" snakehead. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was contacted and a representative will come to the park to collect the snakehead for further study. A full analysis of the fish survey will be available in the next few weeks.

David Lawlor
Resource Manager



Hybrid Goose seen at Monday Morning Bird Walk - September 18

Photo by: Ken Larsen

Our Varying Wetlands

Photos of the central wetlands on three different dates this summer



June 27, 2006



August 21, 2006



September 18, 2006

photos by: Ken Larsen

Thank You from Dan Boyd

On my desk in the Visitor Center's office, there hangs a sign in orange, 48-point, italicized "impact" font that says, "I get bossed around every day." The sign is made in jest. Oh, every now and then I get bossed, but since I'm an intern, I don't let it get to me too much. The reality is that I have learned more this summer as an intern at Huntley Meadows Park than any other job I've ever worked.

Right away, we were off to the races. Camps, camps, camps! This was really when I started to have fun. Working with the kiddos is really a dream come true, at least for me. I really thought that I had a good rapport with them, because I'm not much more than a six foot tall kid myself. Whether it was running around like a maniac at Hybla Valley elementary school with a mist net, or dressing up like a raccoon and raiding a trash can, I was having a blast. Then, after all the work I did with camp, I had two programs that I had to run!

First was Buglover's Paradise. It it was still a good and fun experience, with crafts, games, and our guest entomologist, Dr. Dexter Hinkley. After that, I had to plan and run a Young Explorer's program about senses. I devised a lesson plan, a craft and an activity. I especially liked this, because it gave me the chance to work closely with the kids and hopefully impart some knowledge to them.

Actually, teaching was not my favorite part of my summer. It was learning. I learned more about parks and nature centers than I ever thought I'd need to know. Carolyn taught me about running a Visitor Center, Melissa taught me about creating programs, Suzanne taught me about animal care, hunting and fishing, Annie taught me about coordinating volunteers and throwing great parties, Jenn taught me about the day-to-day operation of things, Dave taught me to appreciate waders, and Brian taught me that he has no real experience

when it comes to wrestling! Now, I can confidently give a program, lead a nature walk, interpret on the fly, organize a park event, and a whole slew of other things. This internship was possibly the most edifying thing I've ever done.

Now that my time here is done, I will return to school at George Mason University, where I am studying ecology in my junior year. I need to thank the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park for their sponsorship. My time here was nothing short of awesome, and, oh yeah, I'll be back.

Dan Boyd

Historic Huntley Fall Open House

**Sunday, October 15
2-4pm**



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

Sponsored by
Friends of Historic Huntley
FREE

Upcoming Events

ADULTS

October 14 Saturday

Birding for Beginners-Field Guides and Optics

8-11am. Sharpen your bird identification skills while birding with a park naturalist. Program begins with a brief discussion about field guides and optics. Reservations required. \$2

October 15 Sunday

Introduction to Fly Tying

(16 yrs. &), up12:30-1:30am. If woolly buggers and hare's ear nymphs peek your interest, you may want to try your hand at the intricate art of fly tying. Equipment and materials provided. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required.

October 22 Sunday

3 pm. Screening of the new documentary film by Dave Eckert on the History of Dyke Marsh. If you missed it at the Kennedy Center or Old Town Theater, you can see it now at the Visitors Center. Reservations Required. FREE

November 5 Sunday

Why is it called Lockheed Blvd

3 pm. Paul Freeman and airport enthusiast (especially old and abandoned ones) will discuss the airport once planned for Huntley Meadows. This is a joint program of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and Friends of Historic Huntley. Reservations appreciated. FREE

November 18 Saturday

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

9-11am. Come and help FOHMP and FOHH clean up the roadside in front of Huntley Meadows and Historic Huntley. RSVP appreciated.

November 19 Sunday

Birding for Beginners

8-11am. 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. Reservations required. \$2

FAMILIES

October 7 Saturday

Video- Fall Colors

1-1:30pm. 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

October 8 Sunday

Video-Fall Colors

1-1:30pm. (SEE 10/7.) FREE

October 15 Sunday

Historic Huntley Fall Open House

2-4 pm. At Historic Huntley. 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. FREE

October 21 Saturday

Watershed Cleanup Day

9-11:30am. Individuals and groups can help clean up the park's waterways by collecting tires, bottles, cans and other debris. Wear boots, old clothes and bring gloves. Trash bags and appreciation provided. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. FREE

October 28 Saturday

Batty About Bats

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

October 29 Sunday

Batty About Bats

1-3pm. (SEE 10/28.) FREE

November 12 Sunday

Fall Evening Walk

(6 yrs. & up) 4-5:30pm. Families will visit the wetland in search of Huntley's nocturnal residents and, if we're lucky, catch a glimpse of beavers. Children must be accompanied by adults. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$2

November 18 Saturday

Native American Theme

1-3pm. Travel back to a time when Native Americans populated this country. Self-guided displays and hands-on activities will be open to the public. FREE

November 19 Sunday

Native American Theme

1-3pm. (SEE 11/18.) FREE

November 25 Saturday

Video-Cardinals Up Close

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

November 26 Sunday

Video-Cardinals Up Close

1-2pm. (SEE 11/25.) FREE

CHILDREN

October 15 Sunday

Introduction to Fly Tying

(16 yrs. &), up12:30-1:30am. If woolly buggers and hare's ear nymphs peek your interest, you may want to try your hand at the intricate art of fly tying. Equipment and materials provided. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required.

October 16 Monday

Young Explorers-Wild Turkeys

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30pm, Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703/768-2525. Learn about one of the Park's most secretive birds through a discussion, an activity, and a walk in the woods. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$3

October 18 Wednesday

Nature Detectives-Pumpkinfest

(3-5 yrs.), 10-10:45am. Bring a small pumpkin to celebrate the season in style. Through a story and an activity, enjoy the wonders of autumn. Reservations required. \$5

October 19 Thursday

Nature Detectives-Pumpkinfest

(3-5 yrs.), 10-10:45am. (SEE 10/18.) Reservations required. \$5

November 13 Monday

Young Explorer-American Indians

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30pm. Learn about the American Indians who lived in this area 500 years ago, through a discussion, an activity, and a walk through the Park. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$3

November 15 Wednesday

Nature Detectives-American Indians

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

November 16 Thursday

Nature Detectives-American Indians

(3-5 yrs.), 10-10:45am, Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703/768-2525. (SEE 11/15.) Reservations required. \$5

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

Board of Directors:

Kathi McNeil (President)

Sarah Stromayer (Vice President)

Glenn Curtis (Secretary)

Sally Cureton (Treasurer)

Ken Larsen (Newsletter Editor)

P.J. Dunn (Web Site Manager)

Connie Carpender (Membership)

Harry Glasgow Suzanne Lepple

Andy Higgs Marianne Mooney

Norma Hoffman Chuck Studholme

Ben Jesup



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newsletter@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Newsletter Inquiries/submissions: Ken Larsen

staff@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Questions For Park Staff

Are You A Member?

Please

help support Huntley Meadows Park and join

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park!

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

Membership Information

Note Our new dues schedule is as follows:

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

_____ **Yes! I would like to join FRIENDS!**

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

Additional \$____.00 donation enclosed.

_____ I have some comments and/or suggestions: _____

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

_____ I would like to volunteer at the Park.

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail Address: _____

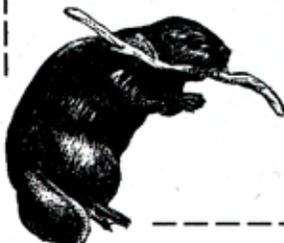
Please Mail To: FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS: info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

PHONE: 703/768-2525

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



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