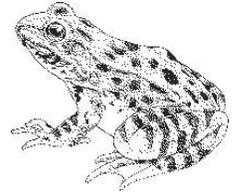


FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK



DECEMBER 2004

E-MAIL ADDRESS: info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

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

President's Message

We want the membership to be aware of an innovation that the Board of Directors has instituted. We have created standing committees chaired by members of the Board. While this is usually a fairly normal procedure in groups such as ours, it is a first for the Friends of Huntley Meadows. The committees are Programs, Membership, Newsletter, Outreach and Publicity.

Programs is headed by Marianne Mooney. At the moment it concentrates on our lecture series, but Marianne is exploring other great programs for our members. Stay tuned.

Membership is chaired by Connie Carpender. Connie not only takes care of the administrative chores of maintaining mailing lists and membership rosters, but she is also researching ways to increase our membership.

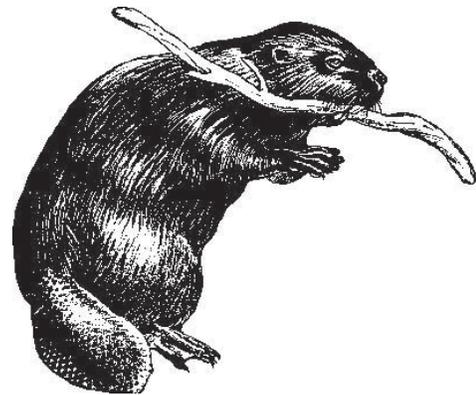
The Newsletter is edited by Ken Larsen. Ken has rapidly moved far afield in this effort by developing our own Huntley Meadows Field Guides for use at the front desk. These contain pictures of the common wildlife seen at the Park with identifying features outlined. A great innovation!

Outreach is chaired by Suzanne Lepple. This committee concentrates on ways our Group can reach out to the community. Suzanne has great ideas for our neighboring schools as well as the neighborhood itself. Among these ideas is an Adopt-a-Street effort for the areas of Lockheed and Harrison around the park.

Our publicity committee doesn't have a chairman yet, but we have great ideas about getting the word out. We already have our great website and newsletter, but we think there are other avenues as well. Perhaps there is a publicity chairman in the general membership somewhere. Let us know.

If you have ideas for our committee leaders, or ideas for other committees, let us know. Go to the FOHMP website: <http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/Information/contact.html> and send us a note.

See you in the Park!
Harry





First prize “A New Way of Being”

Photo Contest winners

The winners of the 2004 FOHMP photo contest have been chosen.

First Prize: Jamie Reaser - “A New Way of Seeing”

Second Prize: Art Cole - “Perched”

Third Prize: Maryjo Bennett - “Peek-A-Boo-Frog”

On Sunday, 4 November, from 2 to 4 P.M., the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park hosted a reception for those who participated in our first photography contest. The main requirement of the contest was for all photos to be taken in Huntley Meadows, and there was an excellent representation of life in the woodlands, on the boardwalk and the meadow area. At the reception, many guests enjoyed speaking with the juror, Stephen J. Gawareckie, a Falls Church photographer and lecturer.

In addition to the first, second and third awards, honorable mention went to Dave Brenneman, Donald E. Brown, Art Cole, Susan Isakson and Willliam H. Springer.

Unfortunately the conference room has fairly

limited wall space, so that only about one-third of the excellent entries could be displayed. The pictures do enliven the room and will remain until the end of December. We hope that their presence will encourage others to participate in a similar contest next year.

The black and white copies which we were able to reproduce here are a poor substitute for the colors and variety of the actual prints. Please stop by the Visitor Center to see the displayed prints. Some of these prints are for sale and a portion of the proceeds go to Friends of Huntley Meadows.

The Friends and Staff of Huntley Meadows congratulate and thank all of the talented photographers who participated in this event.

Sarah Stromayer



Second Prize “Perched”



Third Prize “Peek-A-Boo-Frog”

Birds at Huntley Meadows Park in December, January and February

Visitors to the park in the month of December, January, and February 2002 reported the following birds. It is not a scientific population count, but does provide an idea of what might be seen.

data from Fred Bogar

bird name	count
Ring-billed Gull	2114
Canada Goose	1805
Red-winged Blackbird	1339
Common Grackle	1113
American Crow	426
Mallard	350
Green-winged Teal	158
American Goldfinch	154
White-throated Sparrow	153
Song Sparrow	123
Northern Flicker	118
Eastern Bluebird	93
Dark-eyed Junco	77
Mourning Dove	72
Carolina Chickadee	71
Northern Cardinal	70
Hooded Merganser	69
Tufted Titmouse	63
Cedar Waxwing	50
American Robin	45
Swamp Sparrow	45
Downy Woodpecker	39
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35
Laughing Gull	28
Field Sparrow	23
American Black Duck	22
European Starling	21
Great Blue Heron	20
Red-shouldered Hawk	17
Yellow-rumped Warbler	17

Carolina Wren	16
Ring-necked Duck	15
House Finch	14
White-breasted Nuthatch	13
Blue Jay	12
Eastern Towhee	12
American Pipit	11
Fish Crow	9
Gadwall	9
Golden-crowned Kinglet	9
Hairy Woodpecker	8
Wilson's Snipe	7
Brown Creeper	6
House Sparrow	5
Northern Mockingbird	5
Winter Wren	5
Great Crested Flycatcher	4
Pileated Woodpecker	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4
Tundra Swan	4
Turkey Vulture	4
Wood Duck	4
Black Vulture	3
Northern Pintail	3
Rusty Blackbird	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Barred Owl	2
Cooper's Hawk	2
Hermit Thrush	2
Herring Gull	2
Kildeer	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	2
Bald Eagle	1
Fox Sparrow	1
Merlin	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Ruddy Duck	1
Savannah Sparrow	1
Virginia Rail	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1

FOHMP Nature Workbooks

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park Board of Directors and the park staff have approved the start of a new project to create workbooks to assist park visitors. The goal is to provide a set of easy aids to identifying and enjoying the wildlife of Huntley Meadows Park, using images and text. The images will be as representative as possible of the physical characteristics or behavior of the species, and the text will be as direct and descriptive as possible in explaining how the species lives in the Park. The images will all be taken in the park and the discussions will be specifically related to the way the species lives in the park. We are not trying to create a new general wildlife guide. Many excellent guides already exist.

An editorial team consisting of Glenn Curtis, Andy Higgs, Harry Glasgow and Ken Larsen has been appointed to set the guidelines for the workbooks and to review pictures or text to maintain consistency and accuracy in the workbooks. The idea is that the workbooks will be continually evolving documents which contain the best information available. Thus, for instance, existing pictures in the workbook will be replaced if better pictures become available.

As a start we have created two initial workbooks, one containing birds and the other containing what we now call "not birds". The first goal will be to include images and text for the 30 or 40 birds most observed based on the nature center log book entries, and the most observable "not birds" based on the experience of the editorial team and park staff (a tabulated count of observations for species other than birds does not currently exist).

The success of this project will depend on the cooperation and support of all of the visitors to the park. In addition to the photographers, there are many skilled amateur naturalists and professionals who enjoy the park. If the workbooks can serve as a way to collect some of this experience in one place for use by other visitors, we can create a valuable resource.

Next time you are in the Visitors Center, take a look at the notebooks and if you think you

might have some pictures or information to share with others, we would love to talk with you. All offers and suggestions will be carefully considered by the editorial team for inclusion in the book. We can be reached by email at newsletter@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org, you can leave a note or message with the desk at the Nature Center or talk with any of the editorial board members.

Since the project is just beginning, the opportunities are wide open. We have very little narrative so any written information would be appreciated. As far as photographs, some photos were used as starters, but we hope to replace most of these with better photographs. In addition, from the list of most documented birds, we are currently missing Ring-billed Gull, American Crow, Chimney Swift, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Laughing Gull, Rusty Blackbird, Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Ken Larsen

Notes from the Park Staff

Wild Washington 2005 Engagement Calendars for Sale

We invite you to holiday shop at Huntley Meadows this season! We have beautiful engagement calendars featuring stunning wildlife images by local photographer Don Chernoff. Some of the pictures were taken in the park. The cost is \$15.00 which includes a \$5 donation to Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

Next Café Cattail is January 28

Mark your calendars for the next Café Cattail on Friday January 28, 7-9:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing evening applauding our community's talents. Musicians, poets, storytellers, dancers and other artists are encouraged to share performances with a nature theme. Aw, come on...you know you're curious...please join us!



Carolyn Gamble

Programs and Training

The autumn school program season has been short but successful. We gave 91 programs to about 1820 students. The programs included four successful wetlands water quality programs for sixth graders. This fulfills a new need created by the 2003 version of the Virginia Standards of Learning for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. As part of their 90-minute class, students conducted temperature and pH testing at three locations on the boardwalk.

Another successful series of programs expanded on the middle school lesson to meet the needs of Advanced Placement Environmental Science high school students. The entire class was conducted on the boardwalk, with 20-minute sessions on wetland plants, animal adaptations, water quality, and soil and sediment. These programs served 150 students from Falls Church and Silver Spring.

A special thanks to FOHMP for granting seven scholarships for Montgomery Blair High School students, without which they could not have attended.

Melissa Gaulding

Volunteer Help Needed

Do you like solving puzzles, learning about local flora and walking the trails at Huntley Meadows Park? The Park currently has openings for herbarium assistant volunteers.

Title: Herbarium Assistant

Goal: To help maintain and update the park's herbarium and plant list.

Duties: To assist on a wide variety of activities needed to maintain herbarium specimens and documentation. Tasks may include field work, plant identification, specimen collection and preservation, record keeping and data entry. Volunteers could help with some or all of these duties.

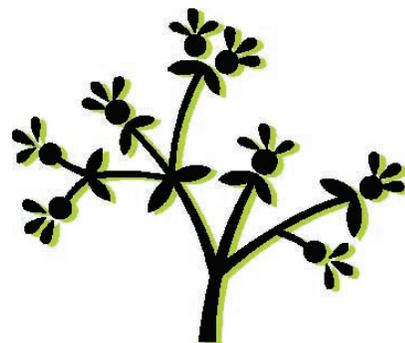
Qualifications: Desire to increase knowledge of local flora. Some familiarity with plant taxonomy and plant ID. Ability to use field guides. Attention to detail. Enjoyment of the park. Opportunity to walk off-trail. Basic computer skills. Ability to work with others.

Training: On the job training

Time Commitment: Minimum 2 hours weekly. Flexible schedule.

Supervisor/Contact:

Volunteer Coordinator-Ann Stat
Huntley Meadows Park
703-768-2525



We are now back to full staff!

I am pleased to announce the hiring of two new staff members. David Lawlor has been hired as the park's Resource Manager. Dave has been the County's Assistant Wildlife Biologist since November, 2000. He coordinated and conducted deer management activities for the County including herd health evaluations, disease diagnosis, biological data collection, population monitoring and reduction. In addition, Dave has implemented the County's Canada Goose Management Program and participated in the County's West Nile Virus Program. He possesses a working knowledge of the local flora and fauna. In year 2000, Dave received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from George Mason University.

Danielle McCallum has been hired as a part-time naturalist providing assistance in resource management activities. Danielle received her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology in year 2000 from the University of Montana. She has worked as a fisheries observer in Seattle, Washington, a wildlife technician in Oregon, Montana and Arizona and a wildland firefighter in Montana.

Please welcome these gifted recruits the next time you visit the park.

Wild Turkeys Released at Huntley Meadows Park

On Tuesday, November 16, 2004, eight wild turkeys were released into Huntley Meadows Park. The well-advertised event drew a crowd of 150 attendees including some curious students from Groveton Elementary School. The turkeys were netted in Radford, Virginia by state wildlife biologists and transported safely to Huntley Meadows Park for eventual release. In the early 1900s there were only about 30,000 turkeys left nationwide due to over hunting. Today, the nation's population has grown to 6.4 million wild turkeys, partially due to the efforts of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

As each turkey was released into the wild, cheers resonated from the crowd of attendees. Groveton Elementary School teacher, Pat Young, proudly held a turkey gobbler in her arms while her students waited in anticipation for its dramatic release. These large birds needed ample runway for take off. Even Park Authority Board member, Ed Batten, held and released one of the turkeys. He jubilantly said, "It was fantastic! I grew up in the city. This is all new to me."

I was pleased that Huntley Meadows Park was selected as one of two sites in eastern United States for a national wild turkey release this year. The other site was near Atlanta, Georgia. Of course, several media organizations witnessed the event and the story was later reported on television, newspapers and magazines. These wild turkeys will help improve the existing turkey gene pool, reducing inbreeding within the current population.

The event was a successful cooperative venture between the Fairfax County Park Authority, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and the National Wild Turkey Federation. When you visit the park this spring, keep your eyes and ears open for the sights and sounds of our new bearded residents.

Gary Roisum



UPCOMING EVENTS: WINTER 2004-05

Saturday, December 4 - Owl outing

(Adults), 4:30-6:30P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Learn about the secret lives of the park's resident owls. Following the slide presentation, we will take an off-trail walk in search of these nocturnal birds of prey. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$5

Monday, December 13 - Young Explorers - Holiday Crafts

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Join the fun of making holiday gifts, ornaments and cards with a nature theme. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$5

Wednesday, December 15 - Nature Detectives - Holiday Crafts

(3-5 yrs.), 9:30-10:15 or 10:45-11:30A.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Listen to a winter tale, and then make a holiday ornament. Reservations required. \$5

Thursday, December 16 - Nature Detectives - Holiday Crafts

(3-5 yrs.), 9:30-10:15 or 10:45-11:30A.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. (SEE 12/15.) Reservations required. \$5

Saturday, January 8 - Birding for Beginners

(Adults), 8-10:30A.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Winter is a great time to begin birding. Program starts with a discussion about field guides and optics, then we'll walk to look for resident birds. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. FREE

Saturday, January 8 - Owl Outing

(Adults), 4:30-6:30P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. (SEE 12/4.) Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$5

Friday, January 28 - Café Cattail

7-9:30P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Welcome to Huntley Meadows' very own coffeehouse! Enjoy a relaxing evening applauding our community's talents. Musicians, dancers and poets are encouraged to share their arts with a nature theme. Reservations required for performers only. Sponsored by FOHMP. FREE

Monday, January 31 - Winter Chills and Thrills

(5-10 yrs.), 10A.M.-1P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. What a fun way to spend the day off from school. Drop in to play games, make crafts and explore self-guided activities. Discover how wildlife copes with winter. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by FOHMP. \$2/child

Tuesday, February 1 - Winter Chills and Thrills

(5-10 yrs.), 10A.M.-1P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. (SEE 1/31.) \$2/child

Saturday, February 12 - Winter Tree Trek

(16 yrs. & up), 1-3:30P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Learn to use keys and other tools to identify winter trees from such clues as shapes, twigs and bark. Then explore the winter woods to practice your skills. Participants will receive a Tree Finder book. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required. \$5

Saturday, February 19 - Sherlock Bones

1-3P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Skulls, skeletons and self-guided activities will be set up in the classroom to bring out the Sherlock in you. FREE

Sunday, February 20 - Sherlock Bones

1-3P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. (SEE 2/19.) FREE

Saturday, February 26 - Winter Birds and Bagels

(Adults), 8-10A.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. Enjoy the winter season during this morning search for resident birds. Following the walk, warm up with hot chocolate and fresh bagels. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$5

Saturday, February 26 - Sherlock Bones

1-3P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. (SEE 2/19.) FREE

Sunday, February 27 - Sherlock Bones

1-3P.M., Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 703-768-2525. (SEE 2/19.) FREE

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

Board of Directors:

- Harry Glasgow (President)
- Sarah Stromayer (Vice President)
- Glenn Curtis (Secretary)
- Sally Cureton (Treasurer)
- Ken Larsen (Newsletter Editor)
- P.J. Dunn (Web Site Manager)
- Connie Carpender (Membership)
- Andy Higgs Suzanne Lepple
- Norma Hoffman Kathi McNeil
- Ben Jesup Marianne Mooney
- Chuck Studholme



Web address:
 Email addresses
 General Information:
 Membership Info: Harry Glasgow
 Donations and dues: Sally Cureton
 Newsletter Inquiries/submissions: Ken Larsen
 Questions For Park Staff

<http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org>
info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
membership@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
treasurer@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
newsletter@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
staff@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

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: _____

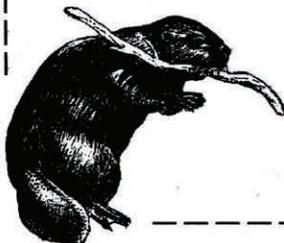
Please Mail To: FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

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 .