

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



June 2014

Website: www.Friendsofhuntleymeadows.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark

President's Message

Dear Friends of Huntley Meadows Park:

We are deep into spring time here at the Park. Don't forget to stop by for a visit to see the many cool things going on here. In fact, why not invite a neighbor or friend of yours who may have not visited Huntley Meadows Park recently! This is a beautiful place, full of life always but spring time is especially busy in some very cool ways. The trees are all leaved out, it seems like the leaves came out over night! The Hooded Mergansers are busily taking care of their ducklings, baby birds are everywhere squeaking and squawking for their next meal. Spring rains seem to



Prothonotary Warbler perches on a branch.

Photo courtesy of a park visitor.

have lightened up a bit for now, and the vernal pools are full of tadpoles. The frogs and toads are hopping around the trails, in the water, onto the vegetation, they seem to be everywhere! Tomorrow, what will you see in the Park as you stroll along the trails? Perhaps you'll be lucky to see the River Otter? Or a Beaver munching on some of the vegetation along the edges of the wetland? Or maybe you'll see some dragonflies zipping around us as we walk down the trail. Wow I was lucky to see a Prothonotary Warbler the other day. It was hopping along the tree trunks seemingly saying to us "I'm happy to be here!" Keep your eyes wide open. There just might be a surprise when you walk down the trail today.

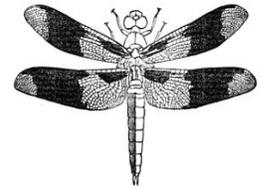
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Huntley Meadows Park Turns 40! News from Park Manager Kevin Munroe

In 1975 twelve hundred acres of swamp, lowland, forest and meadow were "purchased" by FCPA for one dollar from the federal government. This was part of President Gerald Ford's Legacy of Parks Program, which resulted in thousands of acres

FOHMP Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 7th
3 to 5 pm



Celebrate spring with the FOHMP board, park staff and Friends members at our annual meeting on June 7th. Festivities will begin in the Visitor Center with light refreshments. A brief business meeting, highlights of the past year, and recognition of new life members will be followed by a 15 min Dragonfly presentation given by some of the authors and photographers of the *Dragonflies of Huntley Meadows Park* book. We'll then walk to the wetland to look for dragonflies and try to get an up close look at some of them.

We look forward to seeing you there. Dress for the weather.

Please RSVP to 703-768-2525 no later than June 2nd.

of surplus military property being transferred to local park jurisdictions all across the country. The 1,261 acre site had no official trails, parking lots, buildings or staff; not even the beavers had arrived.

Fast forward 39 years to 2014 – Huntley Meadows Park is now 1,557 acres, with 200,000 annual visitors and over 400 public programs. Beavers have been here since 1977, as have park staff, with Gary Roisum and Carolyn Gamble (both recently retired) our two longest-serving employees at 30 years apiece. And of course Norma Hoffman, who saved the park from a highway project that took 15 years to defeat, and still volunteers at the park after more than 30 years, of involvement. The county's only Americans with Disabilities Act accessible wetland boardwalk, and Northern Virginia's only large non-tidal marsh, have combined to create arguably the best site in the DC area for wildlife watching. Visitors come for that close-encounter-of-the-wildlife-kind experience, and return, hooked, to see Rough Green Snakes, Pied-billed Grebes, Southern Leopard Frogs and beaver families literally in their back yards. This park, from the beginning, has been a Natural Island in a Suburban Sea; as much a refuge for people as its many locally rare wildlife species.

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Resource Manager's Message - Dave Lawler

A celebration is in order!! We finally have the Wetland Restoration Project construction behind us! However, our work has just begun as we enter the monitoring and management phase of the project. Monitoring and assessing the wetland hydrology and plant communities will provide essential tools to help staff make educated decisions about the wetland water regime. By continuously monitoring different parameters



Aerial photo of completed berm (straight line in the bottom middle of photo) backing up the water and creating wonderful wildlife habitat.

Photo courtesy of WSSI.

monitor the wetland for the next three years (and beyond). The objective of the research is to accurately quantify and evaluate the factors that influence the hydrology of the Central Wetland. In other words, the monitoring will give us a better understanding of the water budget in the Central Wetland. The project is called Wetbuds, which is a new software product being developed to help understand and predict how

of the hydrology we can make informed decisions and adapt our strategies as we move forward. We are currently working closely with Virginia Technical Institute, Old Dominion University and Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) on a new project to

the wetland hydrology will respond given various influencing factors. WSSI was instrumental in creating the Piedmont Wetlands Research Program, which is funding the research project at Huntley Meadows Park.

There are many factors that influence the amount of water in the wetland each day, including temperature, ground water movement, water table, evapotranspiration and rainfall. Sensors will be placed around the wetland to collect different types of data. Some sensors have already been installed and more are on the way soon. Many of you have probably seen the sensors in Pool D (south of the tower near the berm). These two sensors are measuring air temperature and the water level in Pool D. Three sensors have been installed inside the outlet structure which measure water temperature, water level and depth of the water in the front chamber. More sensors will be installed soon to monitor the height of the control gates. Flow meter sensors have also been placed in the headwaters of East Barnyard Run, the feeder creeks that provide water to the wetland after rain events. These sensors will measure the amount of water flowing into the wetland after each rain event. Eventually a small weather station and tower will be installed in the wetland, to collect wind speed and direction, solar attenuation, rainfall, etc. This tower will be the main transmitter. Solar panels and antennas are already in a couple of locations. The solar panels charge the batteries which power the data loggers and transmitters, which will transmit to the main weather station/tower. Eventually, all of this data will be transmitted to a satellite and displayed on a website for the public and staff to see and utilize. We anticipate having the system completely installed by the end of June. It may take a little time to work out all the kinks but we will let everyone know when everything is 100% operational.

Virginia Tech is running the project for the first three years and then all the equipment will be donated to the park to continue monitoring the wetland. All told, the equipment being installed to monitor the wetland costs about \$70,000. The lifespan of the equipment is expected to be at least 20



Gary Roisum waves to the 100+ attendees of the Wetlands Restoration Project Grand Opening.

Photo courtesy of Don Sweeny.

Wetland Restoration Grand Opening Ribbons Cut, Speeches Made, and Old Friends go for a Walk!

On May 10th over 100 people filled the visitor center and boardwalk to celebrate the official completion and opening of the Wetland Restoration Project. 22 years of planning, 60 public meetings and 3 environmental engineering firms finally paid off! The wetland is larger and deeper, and park staff now have the ability to manage it for a long-term and sustainable future full of biodiversity for future generations. Water levels will fluctuate seasonally, with flooding late fall through early spring, and mud-flats and occasional droughts in late summer – all of which are *equally* important, and combine to create a hemi-marsh ecosystem. Heartfelt speeches were made by County Supervisor Jeff McKay, Park Authority Board Member Ed Batten, FOHMP president Cathy Ledec, long-time FOHMP board member and volunteer Harry Glasgow, and the president of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., Mike Rolband. Many old friends joined us, including the park's original manager and creator of the restoration idea, Gary Roisum, the park's original Site Manager Carolyn Gamble, long-time Volunteer Coordinator Ann Stat, FOHMP previous president Kathi McNeil, and our reigning volunteer and park protector Norma Hoffman. Food, slide shows, bird watching and a long walk around the wetland were enjoyed by all.



Photo's courtesy of Don Sweeny.

Kathi McNeil joined the festivities at the Wetland Restoration Grand Opening.

Ed Batten introduces speakers at the Grand Opening of the Wetland Restoration Project. Pictured from left to right: Ed Batten, Cathy Ledec, Harry Glasgow, Supervisor Jeff McKay

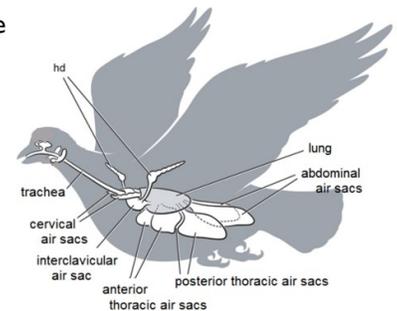


The Huntley Meadows Monday Morning Birdwalk - Harry Glasgow

The regular group of birders coming out for The Huntley Meadows Monday Morning Birdwalk has witnessed a noticeable increase in both the variety of waterfowl species and numbers of individual birds due to the expansion of the water surface brought about by the wetland renovation. In past years there has usually been one or two American Coots at the Park for some of the winter, but this year there were many Coots for most of the winter. Additionally, the numbers of Ring-necked Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, Blue-winged Teal, and Northern Gadwalls have gone up. Other bird observations this winter included many Rusty Blackbirds. These birds are in great decline in North America and are the subject of intense interest at the ornithology lab at Cornell University. Our populations suggest that Huntley Meadows offers a healthy wintering area for these birds. They headed north in April and May to breed in the northern reaches of Canada.

What is it about birds that compels people to spend large sums of money, to get up in what is essentially the middle of the night, and go out in all kinds of weather just to watch them? Some have postulated that birding is a form of non-lethal hunting, while others suggest that it is a competitive one-upmanship ship to see how many birds one can see or hear in a given time or place. Then there are others who simply enjoy being outdoors, and the birds are part of the much larger natural environment that draws us to the woods, shore, mountains, or wetlands. Whatever the impulse, the study of the birds we see is nearly as interesting as spotting them. I recently took a survey course in ornithology and was surprised to discover all that I did not know about the birds I have been chasing for a few decades. A vivid example of this

ignorance is the way birds breathe. Birds have lungs as do mammals, but they also have air sacs tucked away in several little corners of their bodies. While mammals inhale and exhale using only their lungs, birds use a unique arrangement of air sacs to supplement their lungs and help manipulate their respiration. Mammals use the diaphragm to allow the lungs to inflate and deflate. Birds lack this device, so the process of moving air into and out



of the lungs is performed by the air sacs. This depicts a complex process with air flowing into and out of the lungs, into and out of air sacs, producing a startling result that permits inhaling and exhaling simultaneously! Oh, and by the way, the air sacs provide an extra advantage by adding some buoyancy, making flight a little easier. This describes a very complex but useful adaptation for the simple act of breathing. If you thought this was weird, wait until we look at digestion or flight in future articles. It doesn't get any easier.

The Monday Morning Bird Walk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except when there are 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 Lockheed Blvd. entrance.

**2014 FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK
ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST**

40 Years of Huntley Meadows

This year we're changing it up!

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the park's establishment, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park is sponsoring a new photo contest with new rules. We are looking for all your best photographs from the park over the past 40 years. We are looking for new and creative displays in addition to our traditional submissions. Time to raid the attic and dust off the photo albums - let's celebrate the beauty of our park and usher in the next 40 years!

Basic rules

- Photos must have been taken at Huntley Meadows Park.
- Photos may contain people, but you must have their permission to put their photos on display (recent photos), or their images must not be easily recognizable (older photos).

Here's what's new for 2014!

The photos will remain your property and will not be for sale. FOHMP asks for a "pay-what-you-wish" submission fee to help defray the costs of producing the show. Materials purchased for the "producer's pick" remain the property of FOHMP.

We are especially interested in older photos taken during the early days of the park. You may choose the display method, but the finished product must be able to be displayed in the Visitor Center auditorium. Here are some suggestions:

Traditional photo submissions (as in previous shows) - photos must be matted but not framed, in standard sizes not to exceed 16 x 40 inches. Youth submissions strongly encouraged! Limit: 4 photos

Digital collage - compilation of scanned or digital images from the park displayed in a single poster. Printed poster not to exceed 16 x 40 inches. Limit: 1 poster

Memory board - good for older, smaller photos. Great idea for kids too! Boards are available at most craft stores in the area and online. Limit: 1 board.

Scrapbook/photo album - also good for older photos and newspaper articles. Books are available at craft and photography stores and online. Limit: 1 book.

Producer's pick - does the above sound like too much work? Hand in a stack of old photos, and the producer of the photo show will create a display for you. Limit: 1 project.

Your pick - get creative and work with the show producer on an alternative photography display that celebrates the spirit of the park. Limit: 1 project.

Prizes will be awarded based on the submissions received.

For more information and to discuss ideas, email us at friendsofhmp@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions will be November 15, 2014.

Summer Camp at Huntley Meadows Park



Dig It!: Archaeology Adventures

Discover new treasures and learn how our ancestors lived. We spend 2 days off site helping the county's Cultural Resources Team. We will visit an active dig and the archaeological research lab in Annandale where we will investigate artifacts found in the county.

Ages 11-14 \$295 9am-4pm

Monday August 11 - Friday August 15

Registration Code: 3402225101

Tracks and Traces

Learn how to read the landscape for clues from the past! The land that is now Huntley Meadows Park has a fascinating history, campers will explore the park for evidence

and participate in games, experiments, activities and off site field trips.

Ages 8-12 \$295 9am-4pm

Monday July 14 - Friday July 18

Registration Code: 3402212901

Nature Quest - Insects

Come explore at Huntley Meadows! Crafts, games, live animals and field study will be part of this weeklong adventure. Different weeks will focus on a different group of animals found in the park.

Ages 8-14 \$295 9am-4pm

Monday August 18 - Friday August 22

Registration Code: 3402237502

'Park Managers Message - cont'd'

In 2015 the park turns 40 – a cause for celebration of the past and present, and for serious soul-searching as we contemplate the park's future – what will the next 40 years bring? We'll be spending the next 18 months looking for ways to acknowledge, celebrate and plan. Keep an eye out for special programs and events, including park-wide plantings of native wildflowers, night walks, and trips down memory lane with old friends and priceless photos.

What will our biggest challenges be over the next 40 years? What will the park look like in 2055? Impossible to say, of course, but if we wish to stay a sanctuary for both wildlife and humans, with a dual mission of environmental education and resource protection, we will probably have to continue dealing with these current challenges, all of which are likely to grow in size and complexity:

Finances: As state and county budgets become tighter each year, park funding becomes a continuously growing issue. Most local parks have had their budgets cut by over 20% in the last 5 years - program revenue and donations have had to increase to fill the gap. Will increased revenue programs result in larger parking lots, crowded paths and degraded resources, and will our Friends groups be able to keep up with donation demands?

Habitat Management: Streams become eroded, meadows become forest, wetlands collect silt, and forests can have trouble regenerating without fire to create new growth and predators to control deer herds. Habitat diversity in an urban park requires management – how will we manage the park's ecosystems in 2055?

Pollution: The Urban Sea that surrounds this Natural Island brings quite a list of pollution issues: fertilizer, pesticides, road salt, brake fluid, paint, and petroleum products. How will we manage these pollutants over the next 40 years, and what new issues will 2055 bring?

Invasive Exotics: We've all heard of Snakehead Fish and English Ivy – Huntley Meadows has both, as well as quite a few more invasive species. Will any fade-out over the next 40 years, and will new exotic species appear? Probably. The bigger question is how do we prioritize them, since we can't tackle them all. And how much energy do

we devote to exotics that are here to stay? How do you decide when to accept an exotic as part of the park and move on to other projects?

Visitor Uses and Expectations: Many of our visitors come to Huntley Meadows specifically to enjoy the park's natural and cultural riches, but we also have folks that are just looking for a place to bike, jog or walk their dog. All of these uses are welcome and compatible, as long as folks understand and respect the need to designate different trails for different uses in the name of protecting the park's unique and fragile ecosystems. As the years go by we get more pressure to build new bike and jogging trails, open the boardwalk to dogs, and blaze large circuit trails into the un-trailed heart of the park. Can this park be all things to all people? Are we primarily a site for recreation, or for resource protection and education? These questions will arise with more frequency over the next 40 years – I have faith that the Huntley Meadows community of 2055 (today's children) will make wise and creative decisions.



A proud and excited group of design contractors, park staff, volunteers, FOHMP members and county VIPs officially opened the newly-restored wetland with the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony.

From left to right: John Eggerton, Dave Lawlor, Ed Batten, Charles Smith, Heather Lynch, Harry Glasglow, Kayla Quintana, Mike Rolband, Mary Cortina, Gary Roisum, Norma Hoffman, Kevin Munroe, Dave Bowden, Cathy Ledec, Supervisor Jeff McKay, Frank Vajda

Photo courtesy of Don Sweeny.

News & Announcements

THANK YOU!

We want to say Thank You! To *Running Brooke* for..

Margaret Wohler received a \$1500 grant from Running Brooke, whose mission is to fund local charities targeting at-risk kids. The grant is paying for art kits that will be used throughout the summer (Margaret can give you all the details). The website for Running Brooke is here <http://www.runningbrooke.com/> in case you need more information.



Can You Help?

We would like to ask any of our readers who receive a homeowners e-mail or newsletter to please consider sending the editor's contact information to the FOHMP Board so that we can share park news and activities with your community.

Send contact information to:
friendsofhmp@gmail.com

Upcoming Art Show

July/August

"Behold and Enjoy" - a photographic exhibition by Nereide Ellis

Meet the artist at the *opening reception July 12, 10am-noon*. From elegance to playfulness, Nereide Ellis' photos of plants from a different perspective takes us into ever expanding experiences of wonder.

Lifetime Members

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

Aimee Litwiller & Thomas Nordby
Donna Strum
Dan Burkhead

If you would like to give a "lifetime" of support to Huntley Meadows Park by becoming a life member, please send a donation of \$150 to:

Treasurer, FOHMP, 3701 Lockheed Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22306

Congratulations!

Karen Sheffield, Facilities Manager, recently received the Outstanding Performance Award from the Fairfax County Park Authority! This award is given to county employees who perform the duties and responsibilities of their position in an outstanding manner, and whose work is generally well above expectations.

Karen was nominated because she works quietly behind the scenes, almost never taking the stage, while producing countless results for the Park Authority. She has an uncanny understanding of Parknet, and her training of Huntley Meadows staff has helped the site double their programs and triple the number of camps over the 18 months she has been here. Karen tirelessly trains staff while accomplishing her goals, and as a result of her efforts, she makes each member of the workforce more valuable.



Birdathon Update

Birdathon was held on May 6th, and a total of 101 species were identified.

If you wish to still make a pledge or send in your check, please make checks payable to FCPA-HMP and mail to:
Birdathon, Huntley Meadows Park/3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22306

Recap from Visitor Center Side of the Park Birders

The bird activity around the main parking lot wasn't as good as hoped, however, a nice surprise was a fly by Common Merganser. When our leader, Andy Higgs, decided to move on, two members of the team stayed behind in the parking lot, hoping for more activity. And it paid off, with Blackburnian and Blue-winged Warblers, a Baltimore Oriole and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The entire group got back together at the entrance of the boardwalk. Since there was a lot of activity in the woods, it was decided to first bird the Cedar Trail then the Central Wetland. We heard several Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Acadian and Great-crested Flycatchers; several warblers were seen, including Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and Yellow-rumped.

In the Central Wetland we found Great Egrets and Green Herons. Some of the Green Herons were perched on the new woodpiles in the wetland. There were Tree and Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts. The big highlight was a Marsh Wren and a Warbling Vireo singing near the tower. Other nice sightings were a first year male Orchard Oriole, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Kingbird, and Bald Eagle.

Recap from Hick/Bike Trail Side of the Park

We arrived at the Park at 4:40 a.m. but all we heard before dawn on the Hike/Bike Trail was a turkey and two Barred Owls. But the rest of the morning was great. Highlights included: a closely associating pair of Pied-billed Grebes (their presence into May suggests that they may breed in the park, one of the goals of the recently completed wetlands restoration); a group of 4 Eastern Kingbirds perched together on reeds in the middle of the Coast Guard marsh; 18 species of warbler, including a singing Tennessee (the first time in 14 years that I've seen one in the spring in VA), a Nashville, 4 Blue-wings, 3 Northern Waterthrushes, a Blackburnian, a Chat, and a late-ish Palm; many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Yellow-billed Cuckoos; a rainbow of Vireos (Red-eyed, White-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated); and numerous thrushes.

We met the other teams for a tally rally (and lunch) at Denny's. Our team had seen or heard 81 species. The other team had an additional 17, for a total of 98. We were so close to our goal of 100 that several of us went back to the park after lunch and were rewarded when we found 3 additional species, including 2 remarkably cooperative Soras.

'President's Message - cont'd'

In the hustle and bustle of spring I do not want to forget to say thank you! I send to all of our Friends a very big thanks for your work in lobbying/writing/calling to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Fairfax County Park Authority Budget. We dodged the budget cut for FY 2015, at least for now. Continued vigilance though is very important on the part of all of us who value and enjoy Parks. Wherever you are if you run into a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, or one of their staff, please take a moment to remind them of how important our parks are to all of us who live here in Fairfax County. Together we can be a powerful force and if each of us does a little bit to mention the importance of Parks to the high quality of life we enjoy here in Fairfax County, a lot of little bits add up to something really big and powerful! Together we can work to keep the budget of the Parks stable so that we can take care of the natural resources we are so blessed to have here. Just because we made it by this time doesn't mean we're safe yet. Don't let your guard down! And keep up the good work.

A very heartfelt thanks to all of our Friends,
Cathy Ledec



Birders confirm by sight a bird heard calling in the tree tops, during Birdathon.

Welcome to the 2014 Resource Management Apprentice

Erik Paquin is excited to be working as the new Resource Manager apprentice at Huntley Meadows Park under the supervision of Dave Lawlor. Erik received a B.S. in Earth Science from George Mason University and a minor in Conservation Biology from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute located in Front Royal, VA. He is looking forward to using the skills and knowledge he gained in school to assist with all resource management activities in the park, including



assisting with the wetland reconstruction project, species management and monitoring, water quality testing, plantings, trail maintenance, boardwalk construction, and anything else that is needed to sustain the natural beauty of the park. Eager to learn, friendly, and always good for a laugh, feel free to say hello next time you stop by the park.

WANTED: USED BOOKS



FOHMP is looking for donations for our used book display at the Visitor Center gift shop. We are especially interested in books with the following themes:

- Guides (animals or plants; other parks or natural resource areas)
- Environmental protection and preservation
- Gardening (especially with a focus on native plants)
- Local history (Del, Mar, Va area)
- Native American history
- Kid friendly (nature/natural history theme)

Bring one or bring one hundred to the front desk at the Visitor Center. Having trouble bringing your books to the park? Email us at friendsofhmp@gmail.com and arrange for a Friend to pick them up for you.

All proceeds go to the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park to support park activities.

A Word from Historic Huntley

Sometimes the things least noticed are those in plain sight. While you may think you've walked Huntley Meadow's every trail multiple times, there is one trail you may have looked right at, yet never seen nor walked along: the wood-chip/asphalt trail leading from the Park entrance at Lockheed Blvd up along the left side of Harrison Lane. This trail takes you to Historic Huntley (HH), the federal-style, 19th-century architectural gem that was the hilltop country villa of Thomson Francis Mason.

Thomson F. Mason served as mayor of Alexandria and in the year before his death as the first judge of the D.C. Criminal Court. He was a grandson of Gunston Hall's George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Thomson F. Mason and his brother Richard Chichester Mason owned and farmed the Hybla Valley land that now comprises Huntley Meadows Park (HMP).

Richard C. Mason's home, called Okeley, was also situated on present HMP lands, but no longer exists. Thanks to community activist Norma Hoffman and others, Thomson Mason's Huntley home was acquired by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1989. It is on the National Register of Historic Places as a high quality exemplar of Federal period architecture. HH is jointly managed with HMP.

The County-wide trail that connects HMP and HH was installed to provide safe walking and biking along Harrison Lane. From the heights of HH, visitors can gaze below onto all of Hybla Valley and enjoy a bird's eye view of the vast stretch of land comprising HMP. (The HH villa, recently restored in 2012,

is a lovely sight in its own right.) For those of you who are bird lovers, you might think of HH as the Eagle's Nest of HMP.



If you haven't taken the trail hidden in plain sight up to HH,

we encourage you to do so, especially on a Saturday from now through October when the site will be open for a docent-guided tour from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Tours are free for children under age 5, \$3 for children ages 5 to 15 as well as seniors, \$4 for students aged 16+, and \$5 for adults -- and the view from HH's villa porch is priceless! If you have a group of ten or more, you can schedule a special group tour -- just e-mail Geoff Cohrs

(Geoffrey.Cohrs@fairfaxcounty.gov) to make the arrangements.



Programs at Huntley Meadows Park



JUNE

1 Sunday - Wetland in Bloom

(Ages 5 -Adults) 1:00-2:30pm. Take a hike to the wetland during peak bloom of buttonbush, swamp rose, and lizards tail. Search for birds and mammals that use these plants for food, shelter, and nesting. Canceled if rain. \$6 Registration code: 3402842201

13 Friday - Twilight Hilltop Tour

(Adults) 7:30-9:00pm. Historic Huntley sits high upon a hill overlooking Hybla Valley and Huntley Meadows Park. Join us afterhours for a special tour and see the house in a different light. Light refreshments served afterward. Dress appropriately for the weather. \$8 Registration code: 5782833902

14 Saturday - Nature Buddies

(Ages 3-5) 11:00am-12:30pm. Parent and child will read a story, play games and take a walk to the wetland to look at real world examples of seasonal happenings. Accompanying adult does not pay. \$8 Registration code: 3402826103

14 Saturday - Backyard Conservation

(Ages 15-Adult) 3:30-5:00pm. Join a park naturalist to learn simple steps on how to improve your backyard's impact on the environment. This month we will explore landscaping ideas that can help prevent runoff. \$6 Registration code: 3402015002

21 Saturday - Summer Solstice Campfire

(Families) 7:30-8:30pm. Join a naturalist at the campfire to hear stories of summer solstice traditions and star stories. Roast marshmallows over the embers. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$6 Registration code: 3403877901

21 Saturday - Park Manager Walk and Talk

(Adults) 4:00-6:00pm. Join Park Manager Kevin Munroe on these monthly walks. Learn about the wetland restoration project and the wildlife for which the Park is known. No reservations needed. FREE

28 Saturday - Historic Huntley Summer Social

(Families) 1:00-4:00pm. Come celebrate summer and enjoy a refreshing lemonade or try your hand at making hand-cranked ice cream at the Villa with a View. Compete in period games or build a kite to fly on the cool breeze. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$8 Registration code: 5783899801

28 Saturday - Evening Stroll

(Ages 6-Adult) 8:00-9:30pm. Take this rare opportunity to visit the wetland after dark. Learn the curious habits of fireflies, listen for owls, and watch bats hunt. You might even see resident beavers at work! Canceled if rain. \$6 Registration code: 3403827901

29 Sunday - Dragonflies

(Ages 12-Adult) 9:00-11:30am. Learn about the life cycle, behavior and identification of Huntley's many dragonflies and damselflies. Venture to the wetland to observe these acrobatic fliers in action. Canceled if rain. \$6 Registration code: 3403842301

29 Sunday - How to Draw Your Dragon(fly)

(Ages 12-Adult) 12:30-2:00pm. Join naturalist/artist Margaret Wohler (illustrator for Huntley's own Dragonfly Guide!) to learn tips and techniques for drawing dragonflies and other insects you might find in the park. \$6 Registration code: 3403820101

JULY

12 Saturday - Evening Walk

(All ages) 7:00-9:00pm. Join Park Naturalist PJ Dunn to hike the trails after dark, listening to owls and frogs and watch for beaver activity.

Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$6 Registration code: 3403881801

13 Sunday - Birding for Beginners

(12-Adult) 8:00-11:00am. Interested in birding? We can get you started! Learn about the birds in the park and some basic identification skills. Program begins with an indoor discussion. Children ages 12 to 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$6 Registration code: 3403842501

19 Saturday - Bug Lovers' Paradise

(Families) 10:00am-12:00pm. Today Huntley Meadows turns into a bug lovers' paradise, with family-oriented exhibits, crafts, and games. There is a fee of \$4 per child (parents are free). On Saturday at Noon, Park Manager Kevin Monroe leads a free walk to the wetland to search for beetles under logs and dragonflies on the wing. No registration needed.

19 Saturday - Evening Stroll

See June 28

Registration code: 3403827902

25 Friday - Family Nature Night

(Families) 6:30-8:00pm. Come discover your natural neighborhood and reconnect your family with nature. Seasonal topics will explore the many habitats and diverse wildlife of the park through activities, crafts, games and walks. Please call park for topic. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$7 Registration code: 3403012101

26 Saturday - Park Manager Walk and Talk

See June 21

AUGUST

9 Saturday - Evening Stroll

See June 28

Registration code: 3403827903

15 Friday - Summer Wagon Ride

(Ages 4-Adult) 9:30-11am. Cool your heels on a bright summer morning or warm twilight by breezing along on a 90-minute tractor ride to the wetland and back. A naturalist will help you look for nectaring butterflies or hunting bats. Get off for a snack at the observation platform. Rides leave from the South Kings Highway entrance. Children must be accompanied by registered adult. \$6 Registration code: 3403842101

15 Friday - Summer Wagon Ride

(Ages 4-Adult) 5-6:30pm. *See August 15*

Registration code: 3403842102

16 Saturday - Park Manager Walk and Talk

See June 21

22 Friday - Summer Wagon Ride

(Ages 4-Adult) 9:30-11am. *See August 15*

Registration code: 3403842103

22 Friday - Summer Wagon Ride

(Ages 4-Adult) 5-6:30pm. *See August 15*

Registration code: 3403842104

22 Friday - Family Nature Night

See July 25

Registration code: 3403012102

23 Saturday - Evening Walk

See July 12

Registration code: 3403881802

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

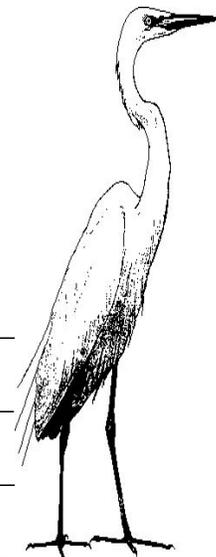
Please support Huntley Meadows Park by joining our Friends group. By becoming a member, you will help to protect and preserve the park. Dues help fund new initiatives and programs, and your membership support will help us to be stronger advocates for the park.

Fill out this form and mail the application to this address:

Dues information:

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

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



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

3701 Lockheed Blvd
Alexandria, VA 22306



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