



## *Where does my contribution go?*

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park supports a wide range of programs throughout the Park, from camps to birding groups to art programs. Your membership dues and donations are critical to the success of our organization.

**Our efforts this year will focus on educating the public and the Fairfax County Park Authority on the impacts of Dominion Virginia's use of the easement on the south boundary of the Park.**

**Dominion is replacing the power lines that currently traverse the easement, but are looking to install poles that are much taller than the current supports. This project will affect the wildlife in the area, both at ground level and in the air, as well as the view from the porch at Historic Huntley. We have already sent one mailing asking our membership to weigh in during the public comment periods and hearings surrounding this project.**

- ❖ We are funding an unprecedented number of interns in the summer of 2016 to support a record number of day camps that educate and entertain our next generation of naturalists and environmental protectors.
- ❖ We are funding an environmental protection apprentice who will study with our Park experts to learn best practices for wetland, forest, and meadow management.
- ❖ We produce quarterly newsletters to keep our 450 members (and counting) up-to-date on what is happening at the Park. Newsletter expenses have fallen notably this past year with our "GO GREEN" initiative to provide more members their newsletter by email. We also print various Park brochures and the frog stickers that adorn so many young visitors.
- ❖ We spend several thousand dollars annually for specialized training for the wonderful and supportive Fairfax County Park Authority staff who work at Huntley Meadows Park. The interpretive and education programs offered are the best in the county, and some of the best in the country! The Park staff makes that all happen.
- ❖ We fund field trips for schools throughout the county. Kids are our very best ambassadors—we hear from visitors every day that their kids came to our Park on a school field trip and wanted to come back to show their families what a special place Huntley Meadows.
- ❖ We donate to the Raptor Conservancy, one of our biggest entertainers on Wetland Awareness Day. The contribution is used to feed and care for beautiful birds of prey that cannot live in the wild.
- ❖ We design and generate merchandise to sell in the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center including hats, shirts, magnets, and lapel pins.
- ❖ We buy tools and supplies for trail restorations, plantings, invasive removals, and field studies.
- ❖ We produce the annual photography show, which celebrates local photographers and their work snapped at the Park.
- ❖ We placed an ad for FOHMP in the playbill for West Potomac High School's production of *Starlight Express*. West Potomac students help us each spring with watershed cleanup.