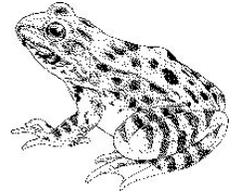


# FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK



JUNE 2006

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: [info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

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

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## Note from the President

June 17<sup>th</sup> marks the date of our 2006 Annual Meeting. I hope that you will be able to join us! We will begin with a reception at 7pm recognizing our Lifetime members, followed by a walk along the boardwalk led by FOHMP Board Members. Don't miss this opportunity to share an evening walk in the park with a very knowledgeable and dedicated group of people! Please call the visitor center at 703 768-2525 if you plan to attend.

Over the past year FOHMP has been busy representing and supporting the education and resource management programs at Huntley Meadows Park. In the **fall** of 2005 we offered scholarships to local schools for field trips to the Park, sponsored and managed a photography contest and coordinated the Birders' Exchange Program, which provided donated equipment and guide books to scientists in Latin America.

During the **winter** months FOHMP supported the preservation of the trees at the North Hill site on Route 1 by writing letters to our representatives on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. We also had members of FOHMP at several community functions, introducing the public to Huntley Meadows Park and the wonders of wetlands! Our membership was invited to attend a Saturday morning Birds and Bagels program.

This **spring** we supported the HMP Bird-a-thon to the tune of \$500 plus many of our members were out there participating! FOHMP had a strong presence at Wetlands Awareness Day and we will soon be having our annual meeting.

FOHMP sponsors the **summer** naturalist internship at a cost of \$2500.

Ongoing programs include sponsorship of HMP Art Shows and many of the programs offered to visitors throughout the year. We have approved funding for several pieces of equipment requested by staff to enhance programming, have actively maintained a FOHMP website, produced regular newsletters, and have been collecting photographs of Park "residents" in a notebook at the front desk to be used by visitors as a reference. These are called "Nature Workbooks". This past year we have adopted sections of Lockheed Blvd. and Harrison Lane through the VDOT Adopt-a-Highway program and have already had two cleanups ( in partnership with Friends of Historic Huntley).

I think that this is an impressive list! Thanks to our FOHMP Board members, the Huntley Staff and to you, who support FOHMP through your membership, donations and volunteer time! I look forward to seeing you on June 17<sup>th</sup>!

Kathi McNeil

## FOHMP Visually Impaired Project

The Park now has Brailled Park brochures, maps of the visitor center and the trails, cassette audio recordings of the text in the visitor center exhibit and of the trail signs, and two Brailled "discovery boxes" filled with fur, feathers and bones to touch and explore. If you know any individuals and/or groups who could use these materials to enhance their visit to the park, please let us know. For more information, please call Kathi McNeil at 703 780-5939.

## Adopt-a-Highway Project

On Saturday, April 29, FOHMP and FOHH joined together and did some cleaning along Harrison Lane and Lockheed Blvd. We collected about 8-9 bags of trash with 6 volunteers. Thanks so much to P.J. Dunn, Barbara Ballentine, Annabel Baer, Kathi McNeil, Matt Iden, and Renee Greeley! We'll have our next clean up in late September or early October. Watch for the info on the website and/or in the newsletter. Thanks to Suzanne Leppe for coordinating the effort!



## Used Book Sale and Donations

Going to New Zealand and need a birding guidebook? Or maybe you'd like a book of Eliot Porter's bird photographs or the definitive textbook on ornithology? FOHMP is raising money for the Park by selling used nature books. If you have birding or nature books in good condition, please consider donating them to the Park. Drop them off at the visitor center and check out what books we have for sale while you're there. Thanks for supporting FOHMP and Huntley Meadows

Marianne Mooney

## FOHMP Annual Photography Contest

Now is the time to start bringing your camera to the Park and be ready for that "perfect" photograph! The Third Annual Friends of Huntley Meadows Photography Contest is happening this Fall and we'd love to have the opportunity to share what you see. Jessie Cohen, a photographer for the Smithsonian National Zoo, will be our judge this year! We will follow the same rules and regulations as last year (three matted entries for \$5.00 ) and will accept photos from November 1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. The winning photos will be on display from December 2 through February 28 in the Visitor Center Auditorium. We encourage more young participants this year - so do tell all of your friends and family to start taking photographs now!! Rules and regulations will be available at the information desk.

Sarah Stromayer

## Lifetime Members of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

There will be a reception for Lifetime Members at our annual meeting on June 17th. We would like to thank the following lifetime members for their support of Huntley Meadows Park through their membership: **Abigail Arms, Peggy Bestrain, Anne Marie Bradford, Francine York and Janet Dwire, Renee Grebe, Deb and Ken Halla, Pam and Paul Hunt, Patricia Jennings, Pam Kroger-Jesup and Ben Jesup, Sharon Lynn, Ann Louise Mapes, Robert McLaren, Ed Morrison, Tom Nardone, Jane Rine, Mark R. Spencer, Sarah Stromayer, Szybala Family, Betsy True, Ed and Barbara Walters, Andrew and Karen Wise for Jaime R. Wise**

Connie Carpender

## FOHMP Financial Report

This has been a very good year for FOHMP's bank account. We currently have a balance of \$15,248.12 in our checking account.

Income for this fiscal year totals nearly \$6,000., including \$1,810 in dues and \$2,380. in donations. We have also made almost

\$1,000. in sales of shirts, sweat shirts, visors and tote bags. Not bad.

Expenses have totaled just over \$3,200. and include \$600. for a new scope for the center, \$500. donation to Birdathon, as well as

\$470. for newsletter printing and \$585. for new t-shirts.

For those of you who haven't been in to the center recently, please stop by the sales desk to see the new shirts - new colors, and the

sweatshirts available in three colors . Also, new dark green visors with tan lettering and some terrific tote bags.

Sally Cureton

## Wetlands Awareness Day

Wetlands Awareness Day 2006 was a big success! About 800 visitors learned about our park and its inhabitants while enjoying music, kids' games, and special guests like the rehabilitated raptors of the Raptor Conservancy.

Volunteers donated 200 hours for the event, doing everything from musical entertainment to boardwalk interpretation. The kids' Fun Fair took in \$450--and at 25 cents per ticket, that is a lot of tickets sold!

And the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park sold almost \$200 worth of tee shirts, visors, and tote bags.

A giant thank you to "Friends" for continued support of this important day at the Park--we truly could not do it without you!

Melissa Gaulding  
Program Director

## Friends Mailing List-Server

Did you know that the Friends has an automatic mailing list server? Friends officers and Park Staff can use this to keep members instantly informed on activities of the Group and of the Park in general. The result is similar to a newsgroup or forum except that the messages are transmitted as e-mail and are therefore available only to individuals on the list. Note that we are using this as a broadcast system, and is set up so that we can only send information out. We are not in a position to permit two-way communication. We encourage members to sign up for this service so that we can keep everybody up-to-date. It's easy to do - just go to the Friends of Huntley Meadows website at <http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/> and click on E-Mail List from the left hand menu.

We would like to remind members that their newsletter address label lists the expiration date of their membership. Please renew before this date so that there is no interruption of your membership.

Harry Glasgow

## FOHMP Purchases for Park

This year, the staff provided FOHMP with a suggested list of items which would assist them in their educational programs. The list, which the board agreed to fund, included a spotting scope, microscope, portable black light and laminator.

The new spotting scope with tripod was one of the hits of Wetlands Awareness Day. Visitors of all ages used the scope on the boardwalk to see shorebirds, goslings, and songbirds "up close and personal."

Charles Studhholme, Board member and owner of One Good Tern, assisted "Friends" in getting top value for our scope purchase.



## Park Manager's Message

The stream stabilization project for Barnyard Run is complete. A 500 foot segment, upstream from the central wetland, was repaired by Environmental Quality Resources, Inc. during spring of 2006. Stream banks were re-sculptured at a 2:1 slope to reduce erosion. A stilling basin was installed upstream, along with step pools downstream to further reduce water velocity. Affected areas were replanted with native vegetation and stabilized with biodegradable coir matting and coir logs to prevent erosion. The restoration project will significantly reduce siltation in the central wetland. The central wetland has been clogged with silt deposition for approximately two decades.



Stilling Basin

pleased with the results.

I wish you all a happy and productive summer!

Gary Roisum  
Park Manager



Coir Matting and Logs

Park staff will now focus on the Central Wetland Restoration Project. We are currently in the process of negotiating a contract with a firm to develop a Wetland Management Plan and Restoration Program. During the planning process, meetings will be scheduled to provide opportunity for public input.

Last, you may have noticed a major improvement to our entrance road and parking lot recently. The original asphalt had deteriorated over the years, requiring total replacement at a cost of \$94,000. Work was completed by Finley Asphalt & Sealing, Inc. during spring of 2006. I am very



Step Pool

## **Birdathon 2006 Summary**

On Tuesday, May 2nd, I arrived at the park just after 5 AM, and discovered it to be eerily quiet. Heading into the woods, my first birds of the day were Canada Geese calling from the wetland, followed by the tentative voices of Robins and Cardinals. I found the central wetland illuminated by starlight, with shorebird seemingly everywhere. Chris French and Marianne Mooney also were out pre-dawn, and we were treated to an American Bittern that flew low over the marsh. And with that, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Birdathon was under way. When we were finished, the four teams of staff and volunteers had tallied 104 species, four shy of the record set in 2004.

So what were the highlights? Well, after PJ Dunn, Ann Stat and Carolyn Gamble discovered a Sedge Wren, Ben Jesup went looking for the bird as well. He did not find it, but turned up a Marsh Wren of his own, making for two surprising wrens on the same day. But there were lots of other nice birds to see. Shorebirds were plentiful, with both Yellowlegs species, Wilson's Snipe, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, an amazing 45 Solitary Sandpipers, and even a Dunlin. Among the fourteen warbler species found were Blackburnian, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Prairie, Pine, Palm, Black-throated Green, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush and Yellow-breasted Chat. Some of the other more notable sightings included Bald Eagle, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and a Turkey.

The most numerous species were 163 Rusty Blackbirds, 128 Common Grackles, 115 Red-winged Blackbirds, 109 Canada Geese, and the top warbler, 106 Common Yellowthroats. Twenty-two other species were seen only once each, some of which were rather surprising in their scarcity. These included Rock Pigeon, American Black Duck, Belted Kingfisher, House Sparrow, Eastern Wood Pewee, Red-tailed Hawk and Field Sparrow. Believe me, we were happy for each one we found. Sadly, there were no Rails of any sort found.

But of course, this is not just another "big-day" count. It provides us with the opportunity to remember Ken Howard and Ed Weigel, two volunteers who enriched the Huntley Meadows experience for so many people. The donations this event inspires will fund an internship for another young person, helping to insure

that Ken Howard and Ed Weigel's good work will continue into another generation.

Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, skills, and donations to this annual event. It's really great to see an intern receive this opportunity every year. And I cannot help but wonder whose lives they will be touching in the future.

Andy Higgs

## **Birdathon Update**

Many thanks to all of you who have generously donated to this important fundraiser. Thus far we have raised about \$1500 towards our \$2500 goal. It's never too late to send your donation. The funds go to support, Michelle Jusino, our 2006 Resource Management Intern.

The 2006 birdathon results can be viewed at [FriendsOfHuntleyMeadows.org](http://FriendsOfHuntleyMeadows.org) by June 1.

Ann Stat

## **Introducing our 2006 Naturalist Intern**

Every summer, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park provides support for our summer naturalist intern; this year's intern, chosen from a talented group of nine applicants, is Dan Boyd.

Dan is a student at George Mason University, majoring in Earth Sciences.

Dan's dad, Pat Boyd, is a "Friend" and long-time birder at the Park. He and Dan have participated together on many Christmas bird counts here.

Dan is a football coach at Annandale High School, and also tutors young people in music. His knowledge of the Park, his experiences working with children, and his ability to speak Spanish will all be assets to the Park this summer. We welcome Dan to the Huntley Meadows family!

Melissa Gaulding

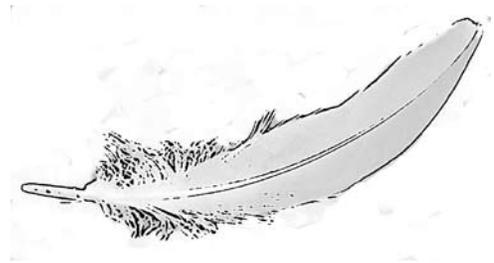
## A Note from the 2006 Resource Management Intern

After a long stint in Florida, I moved to Washington DC. I earned a bachelors degree from Florida State University in 2003, with a double major in biological sciences and anthropology. In the fall of 2005, I completed my first semester of graduate ecology at the University of Maryland, College Park. From 1999 to 2001, I worked as a sample preparer for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection where I became very familiar with benthic sampling procedures. In 2002, I became interested in Red-cockaded Woodpecker conservation and have been working on projects connected to RCW's ever since. I am currently working on a study which involves protecting and maintaining the longleaf pine habitat of red-cockaded woodpeckers in the Apalachicola National Forest, in North Florida. The end result of this study will be a computer model of the forest which

may be used by the National Forest Service for future management plans.

Recently, I have also done work with Smithsonian Ornithology as a researcher and project manager. I assist in avian osteological measurements at the NMNH as well. I hope to begin a PhD program in restoration ecology within the next year and hope to continue to work on the management of longleaf pine forests.

Michelle Jusino



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## Nature as Muse

Mixed media by  
Norma Jean Heim

On exhibit May 3 - June 30

Opening reception May 6, 1-4pm

Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center  
3701 Lockheed Boulevard  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
703-768-2525

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park  
**Annual Membership Meeting**

Saturday June 17, 7-9PM

In addition to a formal vote on officers and directors, we will have a reception at 7PM honoring lifetime members, followed by a walk on the boardwalk. All FOHMP Members are invited

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Photos on exhibit through February 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Upcoming Events

## Families

June 4 Sunday - Sssnakes!

12:30-2pm. Through discussion and a walk learn about some of Huntley's scaly inhabitants. Appropriate for families; children must be six years or older. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$2/person

June 17 Saturday - Young Wetlands Animals

9:30-11:30am. Join us for a Father's Day celebration for dads and their children ages 3-6 years. Reservations required. \$20/family

June 30 Friday - Café Cattail

7-9:30pm. Welcome to Huntley Meadows' very own coffeehouse! To commemorate the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, enjoy music, poetry, and readings inspired by the time period. Reservations required for performers only. Sponsored by FOHMP. FREE

July 1 Saturday and July 2 Sunday - Video-Feathered Jewels

10-10:30am. Hummingbirds are a marvel of nature. Learn more about these beautiful and agile flyers. FREE

July 15 Saturday - Bat Watching

8-9:30pm. Families can search twilight skies for bats on the wing. Learn to use a bat detector and see a slide show for a close look at these fascinating animals and their habits. Appropriate for families; children must be 6 years or older. Reservations required. FREE

July 29 Saturday and July 30 Sunday - Buglover's Paradise

10am-noon. The park is buzzing with insect activity-grasshoppers, butterflies, ladybugs and leafhoppers. Stop by our classroom for self-guided activities, a craft and videos. Appropriate for children 4 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by FOHMP. \$1/child

August 19 Saturday and August 20 Sunday - Video- Insects

10-10:30am. Take a close-up look at the amazing world of insects. FREE

## Children

June 12 Monday - Young Explorers- Fish

(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30pm. Scales, tails, fins and gills-learn about our fishy friends through a walk and an activity. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$3

June 14 Wednesday and June 15 Thursday - Nature Detectives- Fish  
(3-5 yrs.), 9:30-10:15am or 10:45-11:30am. Find out about our fishy friends through a story, an activity and a craft. Reservations required. \$5

July 26 Wednesday and July 27 Thursday - Nature Detectives- Cool It!  
(3-5 yrs.), 9:30-10:15am or 10:45-11:30am. Through story, craft and an activity find out how animals stay cool in the summer. Reservations required. \$5

August 3 Thursday - Young Explorers- Senses  
(6-8 yrs.), 3:15-4:30pm. Explore the five senses, and how animals use them, through a walk and an activity. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$3

## **Summer Nature Camps**

Nature Snoopers-What's for Lunch? -  
(5-6 year olds) June 28- 30(W-F) 9:30-11:30 am, limit 15, 703-768-2525.  
(5-6 year olds) June 28- 30(W-F) 1-3 pm, limit 15. \$65

Nature Day Camp-What's for Lunch?  
(6-8 year olds) July 19-21 (W-F) 9:30-noon am, limit 15. \$65

Artists and Scientists-What's for Lunch?  
(9-12 year olds) July 10-14 (M-F) 9-noon, limit 15. \$80

## **Adults**

June 10 Saturday - Wetland in Bloom  
9-10:30am. Take a plant ecology hike to the wetland during peak bloom of buttonbush, swamp rose, and lizard's tail. Search for birds and animals that use the plants for food, shelter, and nesting. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$2/person

June 11 Sunday - Summer Birds and Bagels  
8-10:30am. Explore the woodland and wetland to observe summer bird life. Following the walk, cool off and enjoy juice and bagels at the Visitor Center. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot. Binoculars and field guides recommended. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$8/person

June 17 Saturday - Birding for Beginners  
8-10:30am. Summer 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. \$2/person

June 18 Sunday - Introduction to Fly Tying

(16 yrs. & up), 12:30-1:30am. If woolly buggers and hare's ear nymphs pique 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. \$10/person

June 24 Saturday - Summer Stroll

8-10pm. Glittering fireflies, gnawing beavers and a parade of raccoons. Huntley Meadows Park never sleeps! Learn about Huntley's night life through a short lecture and a walk to the wetland. Sponsored by FOHMP. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. \$2/person

June 25 Sunday - Dragonflies

9-11:30am. 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. Reservations required. Canceled if rain. FREE

June 30 Friday - Café Cattail

7-9:30pm. Welcome to Huntley Meadows' very own coffeeshouse! To commemorate the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, enjoy music, poetry, and readings inspired by the time period. Reservations required for performers only. Sponsored by FOHMP. FREE

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## 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



Web address:

<http://friendsofhuntleymeadows.org>

Email addresses

[info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

General Information:

[membership@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:membership@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

Membership Info: Connie Carpender

[treasurer@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:treasurer@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

Donations and dues: Sally Cureton

[newsletter@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto:newsletter@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)

Newsletter Inquiries/submissions: Ken Larsen

[staff@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

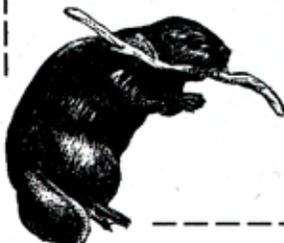
**Please Mail To:** FRIENDS OF HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [info@friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](mailto: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 .