

# Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



Summer 2017

Website: [www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org](http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark)

## Norma Hoffman

1925 - 2017

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP) dedicates the summer issue of our newsletter to reflections, remembrances, and celebrations of the life of our dear friend Norma Hoffman. Her spirit will always be present at Huntley Meadows Park (HMP). She watches over us and encourages us to continue to work hard to protect and defend the natural and historical resources within and around HMP.

Norma was a dedicated volunteer and an inspiration to many. I was lucky to learn many important skills from her that I am using in my role as President of FOHMP. I first met Norma more than 10 years ago at a summer program at HMP. I was struck by her enthusiasm and energy, and have had numerous enjoyable encounters with Norma over the years. Her approach was always welcoming and friendly while at the same time persistent and resilient. She wanted to be sure that everyone with whom she interacted learned about the flora and fauna living at or passing through HMP and its importance to our own lives.



Pictured with Norma Hoffman from left to right, Mischa Schuler, Casey Schnitker, Karen Nyere and Carolyn Gamble, dancers in an environmental dance performance choreographed by Karen Nyere and entitled "Wetland -- A Moving Experience."

'Norma continued on page 7.'

## Note from the Park Manager

By Karen Sheffield

Shortly after Norma and Fred Hoffman moved to the Alexandria area in 1974, Norma applied to volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park (HMP). On her application it says, "Let's talk." Ever since that day, Norma volunteered and advocated in support of HMP and Historic Huntley. She continued to volunteer and welcome visitors to the Park up until two weeks before her passing. Norma received many accolades over the years, and this June Norma was honored with the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Norma's many years of dedication to HMP's preservation, visitor education and Park advocacy is beyond commendable. Park visitors' experiences are enhanced today due in great part to Norma's contributions. The community that joined Norma's efforts to support the Park continues to do so today. Although Norma has passed, her great legacy remains. Most of all I miss Norma's cheerful smile. Every day I witness and feel Norma's spirit in Park staff, volunteers and Park advocates. Thank you all for carrying on her legacy!

## 2017 Summer Interns

My name is **Alex Schiavoni**, 2017 Resource Management Intern, and I am a landscape architecture graduate student at Virginia Tech's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center. Last spring, I spent a few nerve-racking weeks wondering what I could do during my summer break that would keep me engaged with my field. I'm passionate about ecological design, particularly water related restoration design. During the school year, I make drawings of ecological systems, but that's a far cry from seeing those systems in action. I was thrilled to discover an opportunity to learn about and gain experience managing the amazing resource that is the Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) wetland. As the Resource Management Intern, I got to see the multifaceted nature of wetland management, which has strengthened my passion and knowledge in my field.

Together with Tiffanie Pirault (Virginia Native Plant Society Intern) and Jennah McDonald (Huntley Meadows Park Apprentice), we conducted surveys of rare plants, fenced saplings to help recruit trees for the forest of the future, and had a hand in a number of studies and surveys on geese, groundwater, butterflies, vernal pools, and rare colonial sedges. HMP is an incredible resource not just of ecological services, but as a research site that can tell us more about the ecological health of our region and how we can restore it. That the Natural Resource Office is so committed to inventorying and monitoring the health of habitat and plant and animal communities at the Park made for an amazing experience as an intern. There is always something to do, a new corner of the Park to explore, and all of it contributes to ensuring HMP is here for flora, fauna, and people alike.

Throughout these experiences, I had the profound gift of interacting with passionate volunteer naturalists, dedicated county ecologists, and the always welcoming, ever enthusiastic HMP Staff. All of these individuals are incredibly committed to HMP, and it was very special to learn from their unique gifts and knowledge. Thank you to the staff at the Visitor's Center for being charismatic ambassadors to the public and showing them how much there is to love at HMP. Thank you to our bird and butterfly friends from the Monday Morning Bird Walk and the Audubon Society.

Thank you, Karla Jamir, Park Volunteer and the rest of the 'Grass Bunch' and Native Plants Society for being the most amazing mentors. I learned that I have an unexpected love for the complicated world of sedges and to respect the cardinal rule of identification: "We require an inflorescence!" And finally, thank you to the Natural Resources Office. Dave Lawlor, Resource Manager is one of the Park's biggest advocates, and I learned so much working with him about staying the course on long term projects and taking the little wins when you can get them. Brian Moore, Maintenance Manager and Steve Lindblom, Park Volunteer kept us laughing and light-hearted through all the hard work. I could not have asked to be a part of a better team. So thank you Huntley Meadows Park for a truly remarkable summer.



From left to right, Alex, Tiffanie, and Dave Lawlor, Resource Manager take a selfie while working in the field.

Hello!! My name is **Tiffanie Pirault** and I am the 2017 Virginia Native Plant Society Intern for Huntley Meadows Park (HMP). I will be a senior this fall at Virginia Tech and am studying Wildlife Conservation. For this internship, my main project was to map the purple milkweed populations found throughout the Park.

'2017 Summer Interns Continued on page 3.'

'2017 Summer Interns Continued from page 2.'

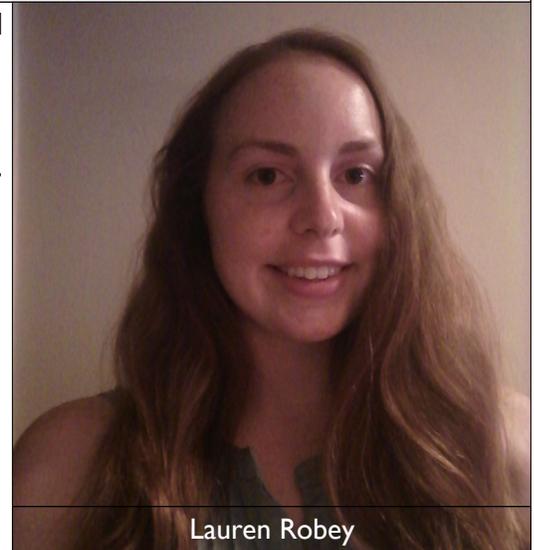
However, I also worked on fencing rare plants and trees in the Park, recruiting small oak trees to ensure a future understory, and helping to jump start an HMP butterfly survey. This internship has prepared me for future jobs in my field, while giving me memories to take with me through my journey in life.

I am so thankful for everyone at HMP giving me the experience I had this summer. Dave Lawlor, Resources Manager taught me that not everything will go as planned in the field, and its important to laugh the stress off! Brian Moore, Maintenance Manager kept our office joyful with his lighthearted attitude and helpfulness; showing the value of teamwork in the field. Alex Schiavoni (Resource Management Intern) and Jennah McDonald (Huntley Meadows Park Apprentice) were the best, most fun coworkers I could have asked for, although that's obvious! I'm very thankful for the support we received from Karen Sheffield, Park Manager for all of our projects and helping me realize everything it takes to manage a park! Thank you to everyone at the visitor center for being so welcoming and always excited to see us in their office - even if we always took some candy! And a special thanks to all the volunteer naturalists at HMP who taught me knowledge that no one can read in a textbook. Thanks to the Virginia Native Plant Society for allowing me this opportunity; at the end of the summer I know I'll miss everyone here so much!

My name is **Lauren Robey**, a 2017 Naturalist Intern. I was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, and I have been visiting Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) since I was a child. I was a member of the Girl Scouts throughout my childhood, which created the foundation for my love of nature. I am currently a student at George Mason University, and I will be graduating in August with a degree in Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

I have enjoyed working with the HMP camps this summer. I really enjoy working with kids and teaching them about nature while giving them opportunities to be creative and improve their social skills. It has been a great experience practicing my leadership skills and helping put together crafts. I have learned so much and now understand the importance of teaching science through art.

I will use the knowledge and skills I have acquired through this internship towards finding a career within park services. I would love to work as a park ranger for the National Park Service someday. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity, and I truly appreciate all the staff who make programs like this possible. Thank you to Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, you have truly given me an experience I will never forget.



Lauren Robey

Angelo Eclavea



My name is **Angelo Eclavea**, a 2017 Naturalist Intern, and am from Manassas, Virginia. I am studying Biology at Northern Virginia Community College and will be transferring to George Mason University this year. I am fascinated with the outdoors and am considering focusing my major on wildlife biology. I also enjoy serving my community as a volunteer fire fighter for Stonewall Jackson in Prince William County. I aspire to become a Wolf Biologist and join Wolf Project in Yellowstone National Park.

I have truly enjoyed this internship at Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) as it has opened many doors for me and has literally opened my world. I have learned so

'2017 Summer Interns Continued on page 4.'

'2017 Summer Interns Continued from page 3.'

much thanks to the hard working and passionate HMP program leaders. Each one is unique, and they inspire me to learn something new every day as they do themselves. Watching them has taught me to appreciate where I am, what Norma Hoffman saved, and the beauty and wonders HMP offers. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the opportunity Friends of Huntley Meadows Park has given me. To tell the Friends what I have learned here would require many more pages. I look forward to implementing and sharing all these lessons.

Finally, I want to say thank you to Kylie Stark, Program Manager, Halley Johnson, Volunteer Manager, and Anna Finch, Office Manager for their quick thinking on July 18 when I was stung over 40 times by yellow jackets. Their actions undoubtedly saved my life. After an ambulance ride and stay at the ER, I made a full and quick recovery.

My name is **Erin Dempsey**, a 2017 Naturalist Intern, and I am a student at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. I am studying Marine Science with a minor in Biology and will be graduating in May of 2018. A majority of my free time is spent on outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing, running, and kayaking.

I know a great deal about animals, but prior to this internship I knew little about native and invasive plants. I have loved learning about the different species of plants that are both native and invasive to Huntley Meadows Park. Before this internship I was unsure of what my path would be after I graduate next May. After working in the wetlands and spending time observing them I have found that I love the amount of biodiversity found within them as well as the importance wetlands have on the surrounding environment. Because of this, I have determined my studies will focus on the ecology of wetland and estuary systems throughout the United States.

I will use the information I have acquired from this internship as I continue to study both in the field and in the lab and pursue my dream of becoming an educator. Thank you Friends of Huntley Meadows Park for providing me with the opportunity to explore a new environment, move out of my comfort zone, and work with some truly amazing naturalists!



Erin Dempsey holding a Spiny Dogfish Shark caught during a research cruise.

My name is **Michael Sullivan**, 2017 Historic Site Interpretation Intern. I am a rising sophomore at American University, currently pursuing a degree in History. My work with the Fairfax County Park Authority has brought me in contact with the rich and fascinating history that Fairfax County has to offer through its many museums, historic sites, and parks. Historic Huntley is one the sites that defines and reflects the complex history of the County. I am working to better understand the people who lived at Historic Huntley with a particular interest in the freshly renovated tenant house and Huntley's now ruinous counterpart Okeley. I will be adding new information to the docent manual, along with a display, blog post, and newsletter based on my research. I hope to gain more valuable knowledge about historical site interpretation throughout the summer. I am also learning more about childhood education and development through my work with some of Huntley Meadows' summer camps. During the coming months, I will be assisting with and developing camp activities with a focus on history and the wondrous natural resources available at Huntley Meadows Park. I would like to thank the Friends of Historic Huntley for providing me with this opportunity.



Michael Sullivan

## Huntley Meadows Park Programs

All programs **require reservations**, unless free. Sign up and find DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS online using Parktakes. Search "Huntley" at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes), or call 703-222-4664. For help, call Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525.

### August

- 12 Saturday - Evening Stroll** - (6-Adult), 8-10pm. \$8. Registration code: 3403827902
- 12 Saturday - Boardwalk Astronomy** - (12-Adult), 8-10pm. \$8. Registration code: 3403865101
- 19 Saturday - Ice Cream at Historic Huntley** - (2-Adult), 1-2pm. \$8. Registration code: 5783039102
- 21 Monday - Solar Eclipse Festival** - (4-Adult), 2-4pm. \$8. Registration code: 5783048101
- 26 Saturday - Evening Walk** - (Adult), 8-10pm. \$8. Registration code: 3403881803

### September

- 2 Saturday - Evening Stroll** - (6-Adult), 8-10pm. \$8. Registration code: 3403827902
- 9 Saturday - Fall Wildflowers ID & Art** - (10-Adult), 10am-12pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404052701
- 15 Friday - Use Your Senses - Sensory Nature Walk** - (Adults), 7-8:30pm. \$7. Registration code: 3404052601
- 16 Saturday - Catch a Critter!** (4-Adult), 12-2pm. \$10. Registration code: 3404051501
- 16 Saturday - Evening Walk** - (Adult), 6:45-8:45pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404881801
- 17 Sunday - Ancient Plants Sketch Hike** - (13-Adult), 1-3pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404834601
- 24 Sunday - The Truth About Toadstools** - (16-Adults), 10am-12pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404052901

### October

- 14 Saturday - Lichens Hike & Sketch** - (10-Adult), 10am-12pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404052501
- 14 Saturday - Boardwalk Astronomy** - (12-Adult), 6:30-8:30pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404865101
- 21 Saturday - Evening Stroll** - (6-Adult), 5:45-7:45pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404827901
- 27 Friday - Family Owl Outing** - (6-Adult), 7-8:30pm. \$7. Registration code: 3404039403

- 28 Friday - Family Owl Outing** - (6-Adult), 4:30-6pm. \$7. Registration code: 3404039401
- 28 Saturday - Spine Tingling Skulls & Bones!** - (5-Adult), 12-1:30pm. \$7. Registration code: 3404052201

### November

- 4 Saturday - Owl Outing** - (Adult), 4:30-6:30pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404866601
- 4 Saturday - Fall Color Snap** - (10-Adult), 10am-12pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404052401
- 11 Saturday - On Mason's Land** - (4-Adult), 12-2pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404053801
- 18 Saturday - Decorative Gourd Workshop** - (4-Adult), 12-2pm. \$10. Registration code: 3404052801

### December

- 1 Friday - Family Owl Outing** - (6-Adult), 5-6:30pm. \$7. Registration code: 3404039402
- 2 Saturday - Owl Outing** - (Adult), 4:30-6:30pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404866602
- 10 Sunday - Naturally Beautiful** - (Adult), 2-4pm. \$10. Registration code: 3404053301
- 16 Saturday - Boardwalk Astronomy** - (12-Adult), 5-7pm. \$8. Registration code: 3404865102

### Children's Programs

Huntley Meadows Park offers a variety of summer camps for children ages 2-12 as well as programs for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm> for more information and to view the complete list of classes offered. Or call 703-768-2525 to speak with a staff member.

## Monday Morning Bird Walk

By Harry Glasgow

One of the more popular Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) programs is nest box monitoring. We monitor Bluebird, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes throughout HMP. This is one of the Park's longest running programs dating back to the mid 1980s. For several years my friend Nancy Vhers and I have also been in charge of the five Bluebird boxes established at the Coast Guard Station on Telegraph Road.

This year we encountered a phenomenon that, according to Larry Cartwright who oversees this project, we have never experienced before. Two of our boxes (Chickadee and Bluebird nests) contain Cowbird eggs along with the intended eggs.

Cowbirds are nest parasites. Quite simply, they do not build their own nests, but lay their eggs in other birds' nests. The Cowbird chicks, when born, become part of the brood of the parasited species. They are fed by the resident adults, and grow with their chicks. This behavior is not uncommon among some other birds, some insects, and even some fish.

Blue Bird pair sitting on natural nest. Photo by Ed Eder.



The Cowbird story is one of the more absorbing of North American bird lore. Early settlers noticed Cowbirds congregated around herds of Bison. However, there was never evidence of nests where these birds laid their eggs and raised their young. Early ornithologists determined that since the Bison herds were semi-nomadic, the Cowbirds travelled with the herds. This life made no provisions for standard nesting habits. It became apparent that the Cowbirds were laying their eggs in the nests of other birds, and leaving the hatching and rearing of their young to these adopted bird parents while they followed the Bison herds roaming the prairie.

The question that occurs to me is, how does the Cowbird, raised by some other species, know it is a Cowbird, and adopts the correct behavior, vocalizations, and mates? There have been studies of brood parasitism with this question in mind. In laboratory experiments, Cowbirds and other brood parasites that spend too much time with their foster families end up learning their host species' songs, picking up their behaviors, and attempting to mate with them. In the wild, though, they're somehow able to resist this - by the time they're about a month old, they've learned to act like Cowbirds, and they know to mate with their own species. If the true parents have abandoned the eggs and chicks, how is this conditioning taking place?



Yellow Warbler feeding a fledgling Cowbird. Photo by Ed Eder

In our next quarterly newsletter, we'll talk some more about bird parasitism and how the adopted species survives.

*The Monday Morning Bird Walk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows Park since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7AM (8AM November-March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria, VA. Questions should be directed to Park staff during normal business hours at (703)768-2525.*

## **WANTED: USED BOOKS**

We are looking for used book donations for our used book sale at the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center gift shop.

Bring books to the front desk at the Visitor Center. Or email us at: [friendsofhmp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhmp@gmail.com) and arrange for a Friend of Huntley Meadows Park Board Member to pick them up for you.

All proceeds from book sales go to the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park to support Park activities.

### **Historic Huntley Renovation Up- date**

All done! The Tenant House (at right) restoration is complete and open to the public. Staff is working on installing furniture and displays so that the building is fully functional. You are welcome to visit Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.



'Norma continued from page 1.'

Beginning on page 8, you will find further reflections, remembrances, and celebrations of Norma's life.

How can you (our Friends) help protect HMP's natural and historic resources from the impacts of development inclusive projects? Work to ensure your community has a representative on the committee that makes development project recommendations to the District's Planning Commissioner and Supervisor.

We should never take HMP's status as a protected area for granted; its future is in our hands. As I write this, there **IS** development occurring and planned in areas adjacent to and surrounding HMP that may adversely impact the health of HMP's natural and cultural resources, including our wildlife. In the case of the EMBARK Richmond Highway project, please come to and comment at the next community meeting in September 2017. Specific information will be posted here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/meetings.htm>. We must be engaged, aware and vigilant about projects that may impact the health and future of HMP. With our collective input, FOHMP's continuing ability to protect HMP's natural and historic resources is stronger.

Norma's successful campaign to stop a proposed road project through HMP more than 30 years ago is highly relevant even today. We need to learn from her actions and be vocal in protecting HMP's natural and historical resources. Norma had the foresight more than 30 years ago to understand the importance of HMP as a conservation area. She leaves us a legacy that is important to the health of our environment and therefore our own personal health. Thank you Norma for all that you have done for HMP and for us.

**Cathy Ledec** - President of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

## Memories

An obituary for Norma Hoffman can be found in the [Washington Post](#). There will be a memorial in the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center at HMP for which an invitation will be mailed to every member of FOHMP once the details are set. If you cannot make it to the memorial and wish to provide comments, please send them to [FriendsofHMP@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofHMP@gmail.com). They will be placed in a scrap book along with memories collected during the memorial and full entries of the below excerpts.

We hope you enjoy the following memories as much as we enjoyed Norma.

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One story that Norma liked to share was her encounter with a father and child in Huntley Meadows Park. The man was smoking a cigarette! Rather than confront the man about his transgression, Norma simply engaged the child, talking about the dangers of forest fires and how animals would lose their homes.

**Erica Hershler** - Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH) Board Member

Norma was one of those special people that you meet in your life that have a profound effect on you. I attribute my successes as President of FOHMP to what I learned watching Norma in action. Always use kindness, respect, truth and grace and "have all your ducks in a row"! She is now bigger than life and always will be. Thank you Norma!

**Kathi McNeil** – Past President of FOHMP

I met Norma Hoffman on Halloween night, 1987, outside the HMP Visitors Center. She caught me, and put a spell on me. She knew exactly what she needed to do to stop the road and she did it.

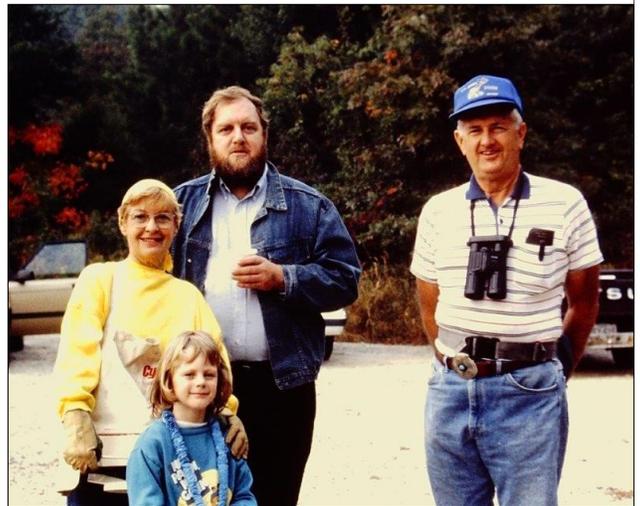
When she flashed that brilliant smile and said, "Dear one," you were done. It was magical, and my small part was the most fun I ever had as a citizen.

She also knew the fight would never end. If you want to honor Norma, keep an eye out for "studies" and "listening sessions" with HMP in the title, and pay attention. Some people who look at Fairfax County maps and notice the Park start dreaming of asphalt. Turn their dreams into nightmares, like Norma did.

**Steve Getlein** - Past President, FOHMP

When I started as a Volunteer on Duty I had to "shadow" an existing volunteer as a part of my training. I was lucky enough to shadow Norma. She, of course, taught me to do everything needed at the front desk, but I will always recall her instructions about young people: "They are our most important visitors", she said, "We are teaching them about the importance of nature and the environment, and they are the future". I was taught to reach out to each one that came into the Nature Center, now the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center. I was to make sure they all got an HMP sticker to wear. "Parents," she said, "will really appreciate the fact that we are making their kids feel welcome." I've done that for every young person that comes through the door since.

**Mike Brown** – HMP Volunteer



From left to right Norma Hoffman, Steve Getlein, Ken Howard, and little Emily Getlein, pose for a photo in the Huntley Meadows Park parking lot. circa 1990

'Memories continued on page 9.'

'Memories continued from page 8.'

I remembered Norma as the tiny, sweet and knowledgeable woman behind the counter at the HMP visitors center. She was one of those people whose heart smiled through her eyes. I wish I had known then who she really was. With the love and passion of a fiery dragon, she fought a daunting battle and won. It was a win for us all. She is the heart and soul of Huntley Meadows. She is my hero.

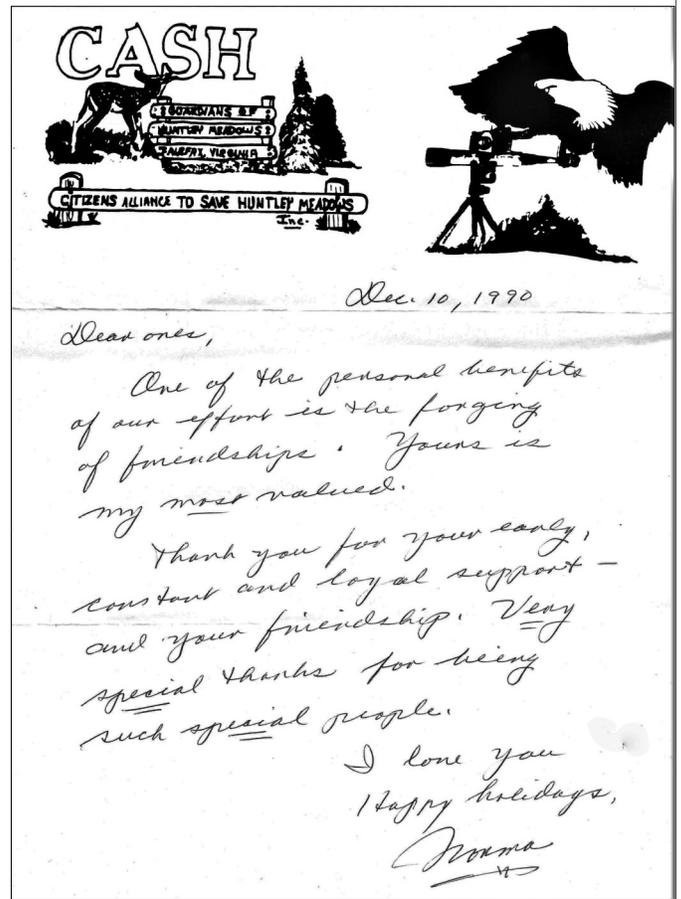
**Judy Dority** - HMP Volunteer

She dances with the Tree Swallows and Dragonflies, and shows them a move or two. Remember this when you see a swallow...

**Charles Studholme** – FOHMP Board Member



Collage made by Anna Finch but inspired by Norma Hoffman, includes a photo of Anna and her "Ms. Norma"



A thankyou note written in 1990 by Norma to her friends thanking them for their support of the fight against the road.

An Acrostic Poem

**N**ever underestimate the power of one. Norma was small in stature but GIGANTIC in my eyes.  
**O**ur HERO! Leading the charge and stopping a four lane highway from destroying the Park  
**R**emarkable woman with a kind and loving spirit, a warm and welcoming smile and an ENORMOUS heart--the size of the ocean.

**M**aking a difference in the County and in her community, and touching the lives of so many  
**A**we-inspiring activist, environmentalist, educator, mentor, friend and human being.

**Annie Stat** – Former HMP Staff, Current Volunteer, and FOHMP Board Member

'Memories continued on page 10.'

'Memories continued from page 9.'

In early 1978, I met Norma Hoffman, a member of CASH (Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley). Small in stature and soft spoken, she hardly seemed the ticket to stopping State and County officials from building a major highway through County parkland. However, in 1990 she did just that! It was such a blessing to have Norma as a sincere friend and ally. For 30 years we worked on many projects together.... writing grants, monitoring countless development activities to prevent silt deposition into the Park wetland, responding to oil spills from road construction, attending meetings with County and State officials on issues affecting the Park and more. Norma was a champion environmentalist, and I am both humbled and proud to have known and worked with her.

**Gary Roisum** – HMP Manager 1977-2007

Most of us have some magic. But we've forgotten about it, don't know what to do with it, or heaven forbid, have been told to grow up. But Norma wasn't most people. In the brief time I knew Norma, I saw her dance with an Elvis impersonator, dress up like a ladybug, wear elf-ears, and lead a group of county employees in song. She also loved to flirt with her husband Fred, until he was reduced to laughter and a blush, tough man as he is. I also saw Norma hobnob with government officials, command a stage in front of dozens, and render a group of 60 school kids silent, sitting and listening.

**Kevin Munroe** – Park Manager 2008-2014

#### 10 of the Hundreds of Reasons Why Norma is my Hero

1. If Norma wanted something to happen – it was going to happen even if it took 15 years.
  2. She was not crushed by political hardball nor did she ever respond to it in kind.
  3. She was more organized with old-fashioned files, pen, paper and a typewriter, than all the rest of us.
  4. She could do a time step and never stopped wanting to be on-stage dancing.
  5. She made friends on short elevator rides and in grocery store lines.
  6. She had a treasure box full of goodies for the neighborhood kids.
  7. She looked really great in a beret.
  8. She wrote the best thank you notes.
  9. She was totally self-taught, driven by her heartfelt desire to make the world better.
  10. She saw the best in people and was positive 99.99% of the time.
  11. She saved Huntley Meadows Park!
- Oops that's 11!

**Carolyn Gamble** – Former HMP Staff, Current Volunteer and FOHH Board Member



Kevin Munroe with Norma Hoffman after the Park received a resolution from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in recognition of HMP's 40th anniversary.

'Memories continued on page 11.'

'Memories continued from page 10.'

### Lesson's from Norma

Lesson No. 1 - never give up. "You never give up, the fight is never over. You may win sometimes, but remember it is temporary. We need to stay vigilant".

Lesson No. 2 - create and maintain vast networks.

She kept 3x5" cards with information about everyone she talked to and every piece of paper being signed about the Park. She had the phone numbers of the heads of Federal, State, and Local government agencies, the names of their secretaries and the names of the secretaries' children and grandchildren. With this rolodex, she could mobilize all of us citizen activists and scientists whenever we were needed.

Lesson No. 3 - stay upbeat. Norma never scolded, gossiped, or said mean things about anyone. And she was hilarious! She would always share anything funny or fun she noticed, heard or read.

Lesson No. 4 - nurture experts. During the height of the fight there were 22 scientists (including myself) Norma had collected who contributed to the 1987 Environmental Impact Statement.



Norrie Robbins (left) and Norma Hoffman (right) showing off a new interpretive sign that had just been installed. Circa 1996

**Norrie Robbins, PhD** - USGS Scientist and CASH Volunteer (for the proposed road project)



Charles and Elise Lepple showing off newspaper articles announcing that the road through HMP had been stopped.

Norma was my mentor and inspiration plus a dear family friend for over three decades. We are most grateful for the environmental consciousness she helped us instill in our son and daughter who were thrilled when "Norma stopped that road through Huntley Meadows!" She always had a warm smile and sent them

wonderful notes of encouragement to keep on fighting for the wildlife that called HMP home. Norma believed that the key to environmental preservation was engaging future generations to be good stewards of the environment. She did so with humor, grace, and perseverance.

**Suzanne, Fred, Elise, & Charles Lepple** – Suzanne is a FOHMP Board Member, and the family are FOHMP Lifetime Members

## Go Green

We now offer an electronic version of our quarterly newsletter! If you wish to receive you newsletter via email please email us at: [friendsofhmp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhmp@gmail.com).

FOHMP DOES NOT SHARE OUR EMAIL LIST WITH ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.



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

Please support Huntley Meadows Park by joining our Friends group. Dues contribute toward funding 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:

**Dues information (Annual):**

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

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_



Alternatively you can use our PayPal feature on the Membership page of our website <http://www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org/membership.html>.



**Friends of Huntley  
Meadows Park**  
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Alexandria, VA 22306