

Spring 2022

Newsletter

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park



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Farewell Letter

Dear Friends:

New adventures await me and my husband George as we pack up our belongings and move to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Many months ago, we were presented with a very exciting opportunity to purchase a property with great conservation and ecological restoration potential near a large conservation area. George and I look forward to restoring this landscape with native trees, shrubs, meadow, and wetland plants appropriate for the location. There will be lots to learn, and we greatly anticipate this new chapter in our lives. This move also means that as of June 30, 2022, I will be stepping down as President of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP).



FY22 FOHMP President Cathy Ledec.

I want you to know that I care very deeply about Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) and Historic Huntley (HH). During my tenure as President of FOHMP, and while volunteering at HMP, I have given every ounce of my energy and enthusiasm for these forest, wetland, meadow, and historic sites. FOHMP, Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH), and Park staff have accomplished many great things together. Time has simply flown by. I am grateful for all of the support of our FOHMP members and visitors. It seems like only last week FOHMP began the journey with me at the helm. There have been several great challenges in protecting HMP, and I hope that you have been pleased with all that we have accomplished. Both FOHMP and FOHH convinced Dominion Energy to redesign its transmission line rebuild project.

"Farewell" continued on pg 2

Help Friends of Huntley Meadows Park streamline our administrative work; use our PayPal link to renew your membership or donate! Go to <http://fohmp.org/membership.html>, and scroll to the bottom of the page.

"Farewell" continued from pg 1

We also persuaded the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to remove two conceptual paved bike trails (transportation corridors) that would have gone through HMP from the Bicycle Master Plan and other County plans. FOHMP's financial position is now sustainable for the long term, thanks in large part to our members' direct donations and to the FOHMP parking donation program. These funds are re-invested in the Park's programs. These programs include substantial support to bring students from Title 1 schools to the Park for naturalist-led field trips. I estimate that FOHMP provided more than \$200,000 in support of HMP's programs during my tenure. I hope you, our Friends, are very pleased with this outcome.

Looking towards the future, I want you to throw all your energy and enthusiasm behind whoever takes the helm as the new President of FOHMP. As our dear friend Norma Hoffman instructed us, eternal vigilance will be needed to ensure the continued protection of Huntley Meadows and Historic Huntley. FOHMP needs your continued support as they advocate for the future of this very special place. Future generations need you to stand up for nature. I look forward to hearing all the stories describing the great things happening at HMP.

See you on the trails at HMP and (if you get a chance to come by) in Massachusetts! George and I will remain available to provide advice and assistance to FOHMP from our new home in Cape Cod.

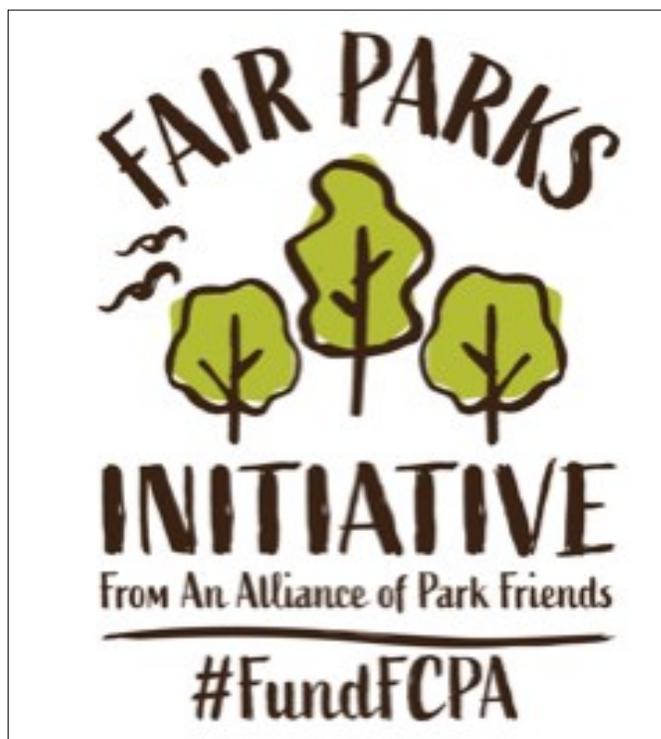
I remain always your Friend and wish you all the very best of joy in all that you do,

Cathy Ledec

Fair Parks Initiative

By: Todi Carnes, President of Friends of Historic Huntley

In March 2022, the Friends of Historic Huntley called on other Fairfax County parks Friends groups to work cooperatively together in pursuit of increased County funding for the parks. The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park answered the call along with seven other Friends groups (those for Colvin Run Mill, Eleanor C. Lawrence Park, Fairfax Archaeology & Cultural Resources, Frying Pan Farm Park, Holmes Run, Accotink Creek, and Pimmit Barn). Together, we launched the Fair Parks Initiative (FPI) which seeks increased funding for park maintenance and full-time staff positions. FPI activities include development of media resources, participation in district budget town hall meetings, and providing testimony before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The FPI also serves as an information hub for sharing other groups' initiatives. This sharing allows maximum knowledge of and participation in all advocacy efforts aimed at increasing the share of County funding for parks. Thank you to everyone who, as a part of any of these efforts, contacted their supervisor, signed a petition, wrote a letter, provided testimony to the Board, or simply took the time to become informed by reading an FPI flyer providing educational information about the funding status of our parks. You have most assuredly helped to make a difference. Thank you!



Watch This Space...

By: Karen Sheffield, Huntley Meadows Park Manager

Huntley Meadows Park is experiencing lots of exciting staff changes, so the next time you visit, you may see some new faces. We've welcomed four new Norma Hoffman Visitor Center front desk volunteers, and in late May the Naturalist interns, History intern, Resource Management intern and Native Plant intern will be arriving for the summer!

In the past year, Huntley's Maintenance Crew Chief Brian Moore retired. Natural Resource Manager Dave Lawlor, Visitor Services Manager Casey Pittrizzi, and Senior Interpreter Kylie Starck were all promoted and now work in the Natural Resource Branch (Dave) and at Riverbend Park (Casey and Kylie). I am so very happy for all four of them. They are awesome! These staff members made significant contributions toward the Park's resource and education goals and will be dearly missed. I can't say thank you enough!

If you haven't had a chance to meet Dave's replacement Chris King or Brooks Long, our new Natural Resource Assistant, keep an eye out for them working in the Park on your next visit! We're in the process of hiring for the remaining vacancies and hope to have the vacated positions filled by the end of summer.

I'm looking forward to welcoming our new staff members to the Huntley team and carrying on the tradition of resource management and quality environmental and history education opportunities for all.

Many thanks go out to Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, Friends of Historic Huntley, and the Virginia Native Plant Society – Potowmack Chapter for granting awards to support the 2022 summer interns. Your assistance is much appreciated.

I hope you enjoy your next visit to Huntley!

2022 Bird-a-thon and Beyond! Results

What a success! Thank you to all who sent in bird counts from their favorite birding site, contributing to the Beyond! part of this fundraiser. The count at the Park, our Bird-a-thon portion, took place on an overcast, but not rainy, cool, but not cold morning in early May. Bird-a-thon participants had a wonderful time taking in nature while counting birds. A total of **103** species were counted! A fan favorite was a juvenile Little Blue Heron spotting. The juvenile was in mid plumage change, half white and half dark blue, and it was right next to an adult Little Blue Heron and a Green Heron! A great sight!



Thank you to all who have donated to Bird-a-thon and Beyond! so far. If you still wish to donate to help us reach our goal of \$3,000 to fund the 2022 Resource Management Intern, you may do so through our Paypal account. Go to the dedicated page for Bird-a-thon and Beyond! on the Friends of Huntley Meadows website www.fohmp.org/birdathon2022.html, and look for the **Donate** button. When given the option please click on *+Special reason for your donation?* and enter **Bird-a-thon**.

Birders counting for the 2022 Bird-a-thon.

Make a Donation by Shopping Amazon

You can earn money for Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP) while you shop using the AmazonSmile program. Shop at smile.amazon.com, and you'll find the exact same experience as at Amazon.com. However, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your designated charitable organization at no cost to you. To set or change your charity to FOHMP, use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1338505>, and thank you for choosing FOHMP as your charity of choice through AmazonSmile.



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Huntley Meadows Park Programs

Programs at Huntley Meadows Park (HMP) and Historic Huntley provide a unique look at the diverse history and nature of HMP and its associated historic site. Program topics offer scouts, families, other groups, and individuals of all ages a chance to experience nature, photography, art, and history with experts on this special natural area and historic home.

Learn more about available programs, and sign up to participate on the Park's website at: https://fairfax.usedirect.com/FairfaxFCPAWeb/ACTIVITIES/Search.aspx?place_id=7891.

Donation and Membership Form

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park (FOHMP)

To renew a membership, become a FOHMP member or make a donation to FOHMP, please complete this form and mail it to: Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Dues information:

_____ \$15 Individual, Annual

_____ \$20 Family, Annual

_____ \$10 Student/Senior, Annual

_____ \$150 Lifetime Membership

Donation information (please insert donation amount here):

_____ General Donation

_____ Donation in the name of _____

_____ Donation to be applied to _____ fund



Alternatively, you can use our membership specific PayPal link on our website at

Website: www.fohmp.org

Renew or Donate: <http://fohmp.org/membership.html>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofhuntleymeadowspark

Phone: 571-336-2674