



**Fair Hill Nature Center**

# Habitats

Spring 2000

Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc.

Vol. 11 No. 1

## Earth Day 2000 Marks FHNC's 10th Anniversary

The Nature Center begins its second decade on Earth Day 2000. It's appropriate at this time to take a look back—reflect on the original goals, recognize changes, and renew the commitment. This process began last fall by the Board of Directors and staff in a number of ways and continues on this spring. I'd like to report on the progress.



In 1990 the Fair Hill Environmental Foundation was formed by a small band of people dedicated to providing children with a unique learning facility at Fair Hill. Ralph Young became the first president of the Foundation, and Linda Bystrak the first director. The Foundation obtained a license agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to lease the former hunting lodge of Mr. William duPont for \$1.00 a year.

At that time the former private residence was in great need of repairs and upgrades. Through seed money from the County Commissioners, grants and generous donations, as well as countless hours of work done by staff, board members and volunteers, the Center opened its doors in September. Much work also went into constructing and improving trails around the Nature Center. Scouts and volunteers built bridges, cleared trails and hauled mulch.

Within the first year our artificial marsh was also created. This enhancement project converted a low, wet pasture into a wetland habitat. Over the years, nature has continued the work, producing a habitat displaying an incredible diversity of life. The marsh has become one of our greatest outdoor classrooms!

As part of its mission, the Center created outdoor educational experiences which complemented science curriculum in the schools. We continue to maintain a strong relationship with the school system, from

the administration right through to responding to special needs of teachers.

Over the years changes have occurred. Seasons come and seasons go. We've witnessed the effects of drought, thunderstorms, high winds and floods. Clearing trails, hauling mulch, repairing and replacing bridges—it's all in a day's work at the Nature Center. Other changes have involved personnel. Ralph Young stepped down in 1993, and Jim Campbell was elected second President of the Board. Linda Bystrak resigned and I came on as part-time director in 1994. Many dedicated people have volunteered to serve a three year commitment on the Board of Directors, and a few (such as Gerry Hendricks and Jerry Newman) can boast quite a history of service!

The teaching staff too has changed over time. Holly Hannum has led the education department since 1993, and Erlene Michener has the distinction of being here "since the beginning of (our) time," but we have had to wish Janet Hokuf and Doris Andersen farewell as they left to follow other paths.

Last fall Jim Campbell also stepped down from his tenure as President late last fall, saying (somewhat regretfully), "After six years, it is time to pass on the reins of the organization." One of the Center's 10th anniversary., p.6



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## Board of Directors

**Dennis Clower,  
President**

**James Campbell,  
Past President**

**Jerry Hendricks,  
Vice President**

**Larry Klevans,  
Treasurer**

**Angie Barnett**

**Robert B. Carroll**

**JoAnn Dawson**

**Suzan Doordan**

**Mario Gangemi**

**Douglas Hill**

**Marsha Lauck**

**Mary Leonard**

**William Lucas**

**Jerry Newman**

**Dan Schneckenburger**

**Nancy Simperts**

**Barbara Snyder**

**Bob Willmann**

## Staff

**Education Director  
Holly Hannum**

**Teacher-Naturalists  
Janet Fallon  
Erlene Michener  
Dawn Preske  
Lisa Wilkins**

**Editor, Habitats  
Karen Aspinwall**

**Administrative Assistant  
Sue Barr**

**Volunteer Coordinator  
Sylvia Barkafski**

## WISH LIST

We are in need of the following:

children's sweat pants,

rain boots, hiking boots

35 mm film

video camera

weed wacker

branch clippers

laminator

leaf blower



Please contact the Nature Center at 398-4909 if you can donate any of these items. We'll gladly pick them up!

## iGive.com Update

Thanks to shoppers who have made purchases online at **iGive.com** after registering the Nature Center as recipient of giving. Over \$150 has come to the Nature Center since we began the program last spring. Each time you browse and buy through [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) it sends the Center a percentage of the purchase price of the products you buy. It doesn't cost you anything, and it's private and confidential. The more on-line shoppers who register the Nature Center as their choice of giving, the larger our donation will be.

If you are an online shopper and would like to contribute to the Nature Center in this way, check out [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) the next time you log on. Follow the free registration directions. When asked to which organization you would like to have donations sent, type in "Fair Hill Nature Center."

The Fair Hill Environmental Foundation Board of Director's meetings are open to members and the public. Starting this month, and every month until further notice, they will be held at the Nature Center on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Welcome!



## Join Us!

I'd like to:

- become a member of the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center  
 renew my membership  \$20 Individual  \$25 Family  \$50 Business

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc.  
Mail to: 630 Tawes Drive, Elkton, MD 21921

Your membership is tax deductible.



# Fair Hill Nature Center

## Summer Day Camp 2000



Time: All camps are held from 9-11:30 a.m.

Fees: \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members per week. Full Payment is due at registration. A full refund is available up to two weeks before the program. Classes may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment; you will be notified one week in advance.

Questions? Call (410) 398-4909

### Week #1: June 19-23

#### A. Summer Critters ages 5-7

Explore our introduction to Fair Hill through age appropriate games, crafts, hikes.



#### B. Best of Waterworks ages 8-11

Experiment with water, investigate adaptations of aquatic animals, build a model boat and more!

### Week #2: June 26-30

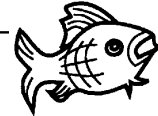


#### A. Summer Critters ages 5-7

Same as Week #1

#### B. The Bay Starts Here! ages 10-13

Discover the Chesapeake Bay watershed through hikes, games and hands-on activities along its tributaries.



### Week #3: July 10-14

#### A. Imagination Camp ages 6-7

Discover nature's wonders through stories, explorations and imagination play.



#### B. Into the Woods ages 8-12

Investigate nature through crafts, games and hikes. Earn a Junior Ranger patch.

### Week #4: July 17-21

#### A. Summer Critters ages 5-7

Same as Week #1

#### B. Craft Camp ages 7-11

Create fun projects using natural materials mixed with other media.



#### C. Fair Hill "Wilderness" Adventure ages 11-13

Learn orienteering basics, wilderness skills and leave no trace methods to aid you on camping and backpacking trips.

Camp Application Form Total enclosed: \$

Membership Form

Camper name	Age	Wk#/Prog. Letter
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
& zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to:  become a member  
 renew my membership

Individual: \$20/ Family: \$25/Business: \$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
& zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to: Fair Hill Environmental Fdn. Mail to: 630 Tawes Dr. Elkton, MD 21921



# Tails Out of School

## Nature School Update



### CC Arts Council helps bring "A Winter's Tale" to Kindergartens

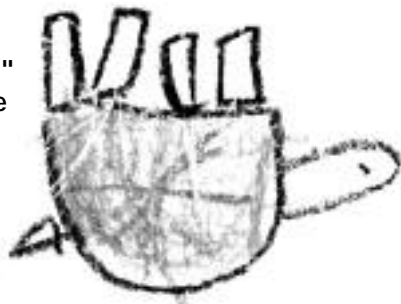
Thanks to a grant from the Cecil County Arts Council, Fair Hill Nature Center staff was able to visit with 21 county kindergarten classes this winter with its Outreach program, "A Winter's Tale." The program combines theatre and science as the children explore how native animals cope with the winter season in our region. Student volunteers dress in costume and the whole class participates in the play.



"I liked the fox."  
--Zachary

Afterwards, the children rotate among interactive learning stations that reinforce the lesson presented in the play. Contact the Nature Center for more information on having "A Winter's Tale" come to your child's classroom next January or February.

"I likd the trtl.."  
--Madeline



### Nature Center Programs Undergo Revisions

In keeping with its goal to provide environmental education experiences that complement the Cecil County Public School System's science curriculum, the Nature Center has undertaken a big project to review and update its curriculum offerings. Several of these new programs will be ready for the fall 2000 season.

Cecil County has recently initiated a new science curriculum that is being introduced in stages to elementary and middle grades over a three year period. Education Director Holly Hannum, consultant Karen Aspinwall, and members of the teaching staff are working closely with Marsha Lauck, K-8 Science Resource Teacher for CCPS (and Nature Center board member), in the revision process. Marsha sees this effort as a "true partnership" between the Nature Center and school system. "We are working hand in hand to develop programs which complement and enrich our inquiry-based science program in the schools."

The role of the Center is to bring the classroom investigations into a "real world" setting so students studying life in a terrarium or aquarium can make connections about life in the woods and streams of local environments like Fair Hill. Nature Center programs have always been designed to reinforce what students are being taught in the classroom as well as expand their learning with the unique resources and expertise we have at Fair Hill. A special article featuring the new programs will appear in the fall issue of *Habitats*.

10th anniversary., cont.

greatest supporters, Jim continues to serve on the Board as Past President. Board member Dennis Clower was nominated for President and agreed to take on the responsibilities. I resigned as part-time director last November, but continue to serve as editor of *Habitats* and consultant during the interim period while a search for a director is completed.

Despite the changes, the commitment to the Foundation's original mission has remained steadfast. With the help of outside consultant Linda Walls from Just Cause, Inc., the Board has reviewed and updated its mission statement (see below). And this year we are revising our education programs to reflect changes in the Cecil County science curriculum (see article on page 4). It is an exciting time! As a member, you have contributed to our success, for which the Foundation extends a warm thank you. You also have a stake in our future. The Board welcomes you at its monthly meetings (see schedule, page 2) and encourages you to join a committee and get actively involved. The next issue will highlight our committees and goals for this year.

--Karen Aspinwall



President Dennis Clower receives check from Geraldine McKeown

In January, Ms. Geraldine McKeown presented President Dennis Clower with a check for over \$900. Last summer Ms. McKeown produced a limited edition of 500 signed and numbered prints of her watercolor, "Winter on the Big Elk Creek." The painting depicts a winter sunset with the covered bridge in the background. Details include wildlife commonly seen at Fair Hill. As a fund-raiser, she offered to donate to the Nature Center 20% of the price of the original and each print sold through the end of the year. Thank you Geraldine, for producing this art treasure and for your generous donation!



*Habitats* is a publication of the Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc., a private non-profit natural history and environmental learning center serving students and adults from the tri-state area of ne MD, se PA, and n. DE. Its mission is to promote responsible stewardship through an appreciation and understanding of our environment.

Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc.  
630 Tawes Dr.  
Elkton, MD 21921

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Summer Camp  
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*Is it time to renew? Please check mailing label for membership expiration date.*

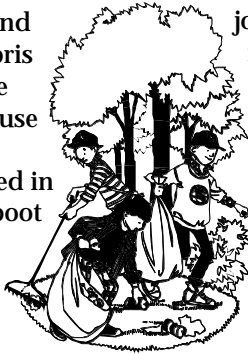
## Spring events at Fair Hill Nature Center

The new Special Events Committee is still planning programs for this year. A separate flyer announcing the schedule will be mailed to members later this spring. In the meanwhile, plan on joining Nature Center staff and board members for two important volunteer events.

### Trail Day

March 25 9a.m.

Join staff to prepare Nature Center trails for the spring season. Help is needed to clip and mulch trails, repair steps and clear debris left behind by Hurricane Floyd and the winter season. Some areas require the use of a chainsaw and we are looking for volunteers who have one and are skilled in its use! Building projects include two boot boxes. Hot dogs and sodas will be provided. Call (410) 398-4909 if you can help.



### Road Clean-up Day

April 22 8 to 10 a.m.

Do your part to help clean up our roadsides by joining Nature Center staff and board members for its quarterly trash pick-up day along our adopted highway, a section of 273. We will meet at Wesley's parking lot at 8 a.m. All materials will be provided by the Center. Volunteers must be 12 years or older. Service Learning credit is available. Please call the Center at (410) 398-4909 to register.

## Habitats Community

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their recent financial support. Their donations have substantially contributed to the success of the Nature Center and Foundation activities.

**Cecilton Lions Club**  
**Mr. and Mrs. William Daniels**  
**Delaware Trail Spinners**  
**Suzan Doordan**  
**Sue Fuhrman**  
**John and Micki Hentkowski**  
**Larry and Judy Klevans**  
**Evelyn and S. Nivin Logan**  
**Montel**  
**Thiokol**  
**VFW of North East**

### Welcome to New Board Members

**Angie Barnett**, Ass't to the CC Commissioners  
**JoAnn Dawson**, owner, Tailwinds Riding Stables  
**Mario Gangemi**, Geotechnical Engineer, Duffield Associates, Inc.  
**Douglas Hill**, Director, Office for School to Work, University of Delaware  
**Marsha Lauck**, K-8 Science Resource Teacher, Cecil County Public Schools  
**Mary Leonard**, W.L.Gore and Associates  
**Dan Schneckeburger**, Research Engineer, Montell  
**Nancy Simpers**, Realtor, O'Connor, Piper and Flynn  
**Barbara Snyder**, Information Services Technician, Cecil County Public Schools

### . . . and to the following new members

<b>Eyman Children's Center</b>	<b>Andrew &amp; Kim Turiansky</b>
<b>Paul &amp; Deborah Gebauer</b>	<b>Donna &amp; William Brenchley</b>
<b>David &amp; Linda Usher</b>	<b>Joseph &amp; Elizabeth Lynch</b>
<b>Barbara &amp; Brian Roberts</b>	<b>Laura &amp; Jim Hartwell</b>
<b>Todd &amp; Sara Bjerke</b>	<b>Gary G. Routh</b>
<b>Barry &amp; Mary Neal Jones</b>	<b>Donald &amp; Nadine Hall</b>
<b>Robert &amp; Deborah Jones</b>	<b>Elizabeth Scharr</b>
<b>Tad &amp; Alison Barteau</b>	<b>John Schuenemeyer</b>
<b>Cathy &amp; Jonathon Roelke</b>	<b>Jay &amp; Elizabeth Feldman</b>
<b>Robert &amp; Christine Bolen</b>	<b>S. Nivin &amp; Evelyn Logan</b>
	<b>Martha Straus</b>

Everyone at the Nature Center would like to wish **Ed Walls** a warm farewell as he retires from service as Manager of the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

Thank you for all your support as we have worked side by side through the years and best wishes to you in new ventures undertaken in your "spare" time!

