



Habitats

President's Page

I rarely pass up an opportunity to comment on things in which I am involved and, having been invited by Karen to present a column, here goes.

It has been approximately six months since I moved into the President's chair which had been previously filled by such dedicated people as Ralph Young and Jim Campbell. It was fortunate timing for me because there was momentum in the direction of Board involvement in fundraising, and a ground-swell of sentiment in favor of trying to find the funds to create a full-time position for Executive Director. I am happy to report that the momentum has continued and even increased: we have a full-time Executive Director as of July 1.

Carol Anders Riggs was the unanimous choice of our Search Committee after reviewing approximately 60 resumes and interviewing 9 of the top candidates. We were all gratified with the quality of the written responses and with everyone we interviewed, all of whom showed great strengths which would be beneficial to the Nature Center. However, we could only choose one, and the one we chose brings to us a great deal of experience in marketing, development, communications and fiscal management, a great combination of skills for this job. And she obtained most of this experience while working with our landlord, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We believe it is a perfect match of our needs at this time. Most importantly, she is enthusiastic about this opportunity to work with us in our growth and further development. Like all of us who are drawn to the work of the Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Carol Anders Riggs demonstrates a great love for environmental education and preservation.

I cannot leave this subject without expressing my appreciation for the quality and enthusiasm of all our staff. Karen Aspinwall, who resigned as our part-time Executive Director in the Fall, has done all
President, pg. 5

Student Surveys: Full of Surprises

This spring Nature Center Education staff, with the help of consultant Linda Walls, developed a student outcome survey form which is being filled out by students attending classes at the Nature Center. In the past, teachers have filled out evaluations after their classes attended a program. These were helpful in assessing how teachers felt about the programs and as a tool to improve program content and teaching techniques based on their comments. Holly Hannum, Education Director, felt, however, that important information from the students was missing. "I'm excited about getting student evaluations," she states. "The forms help us get immediate feedback and learn what made an impression on the kids."

Five questions on the form address not only what content was learned, but how student feelings and attitudes may have changed as a result of experiencing the program.

Since implementing the survey, the Center has already received many interesting and revealing responses. A sampling of unedited answers from 4th grade students who attended the program, "Secret Inhabitants of the Watershed," appear in Tails Out of School, page 3. This program focuses on freshwater plankton and water quality issues relating to the Chesapeake Bay. Take a peek; you may be surprised!
continued, pg.3



inside

A Special Thank You	p. 2
Tails Out of School	p. 3
Summer Camp Openings	p. 4
Habitats Community	p. 5
2nd Annual Fox Trot Ball	p. 5
S.W.A.T. Clean-up Day	p. 6
VISTA Volunteers Visit FH	p. 6

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WISH LIST

We are in need of the following:

children's sweat pants,

rain boots, hiking boots

35 mm film

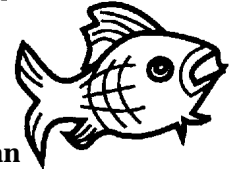
video camera

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!

A Special "Thank You"

The staff and Board of Directors wish to thank Keith Phillips and Bob Willmann for their years of dedicated service as active members on the Board of Directors of the Fair Hill Environmental Foundation.

Keith volunteered his experience in strategic planning to help the Board begin its long-term planning process, and kept meticulous records as Secretary of the Board.

Bob contributed his enthusiasm for and expertise in reptiles and amphibians to conduct members programs and give husbandry advice to the the staff.

Both offered time, energy and materials to many Nature Center projects. We would like to wish Keith and Bob all the best, and hope they continue to visit us often!

Annual Meeting June 21, 2000

The Fair Hill Environmental Foundation Board of Directors' annual meeting will be held on June 21 during the regular Board meeting beginning at 6 pm. at the Nature Center. At this time members will have the opportunity to vote in new board members, and officers will be selected. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!

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: _____

E-Mail: _____

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

Your membership is tax deductible.

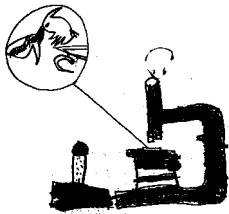
Tails Out of School

Nature School Update



"In Their Own Words"

A selection of responses from the Nature School's new Student Outcome Survey



1. What activity did you do that you never did before?

—An activity I did that I've never did before was use a microscope.

—I never went in to the water and trad to catch stuff.

2. How have your feelings about living things

changed since you visited the Nature Center?

—My feeling have changed because I realized some bugs are more important than I thought.

—I feel that we should do less polluting. If we keep our waters clean animals won't die.

3. What was the most important fact that you learned while you were at the Nature Center?

—I learned that even if you litter in your backyard or somewhere not even close to water that pollution will someday get into the water and kill living things.

—The most important fact I learned was that you have to keep the streams clean to help keep rivers clean to help keep the bay clean to help keep the oceans clean.

—That if there is a stonefly in the water that it {the water} is healthy.

4. What surprised you the most about the plants and animals who live around the Nature Center?

—What surprised me the most was that . . . there were more animals and plants under the rocks than I could imagine.

—That in a single drop of water there is a whole lot of plankton.

—That microscopik animals look wird and like thay cam from outer space.

5. What will you do differently because of what you learned while visiting the Nature Center?

—I will now be careful of what I do because I could be killing lots of those little animals.

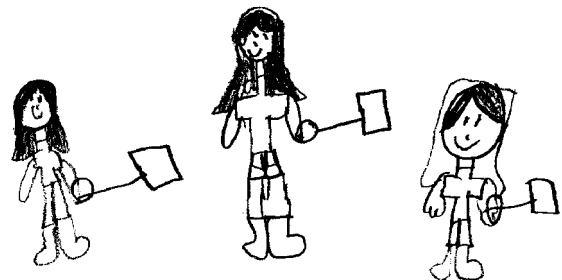
—I will try not to pollute the water so it will stay healthy everywhere in the watershed.

—I would not now take an animal out of its habitat, because if they are in a strange habitat they could die.

—I will never open my mouth under water at the beach.



Student Morgan Killough summed up a trip to Fair Hill when she wrote: "No trip is perfect, but yours is darn close!"





Fair Hill Nature Center

Summer Day Camp 2000



The following day camps still have openings:

The Bay Starts Here!

June 26-30 9-11:30 am ages 10-13

Hike around our little corner of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to learn about this large ecosystem. Build a concrete "Camp 2000" bird bath, print a T-shirt with a real fish and investigate a model of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed on loan from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

FH "Wilderness" Adventure

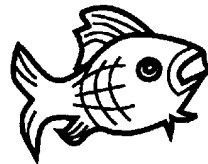
July 17-21 9-11:30am ages 11-13

Practice orienteering skills, pitch tents and build a lean-to while investigating the wilderness of Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. Campers will learn survival and water safety skills and print a T-shirt to take home.

Both of these camps are new and are targeted for older children with age-appropriate activities. Like all of our popular summer camps, these are designed to be hands-on, messy and fun! A limited number of scholarships are available. Call (410) 398-4909. To register, fill out and send in the form below.

Time: 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.



Camp Application Form Total enclosed: \$

Camper name	Age	Camp Name
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

Parent's name _____

Address _____
& zip _____

Phone _____

Membership Form

I'd like to: become a member

renew my membership

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

Name _____

Address _____
& zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

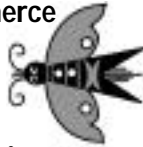


Make all checks payable to: Fair Hill Environmental Fdn. Mail to: 630 Tawes Dr. Elkton, MD 21921

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.

American Legion
 Bayshore Auto
 Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
 Allaire C. duPont
 Patsy duPont
 Russell & Margaret Holland
 Old Dominion Electric Copperative
 The Reynolds Family
 Ralph Twining



FHNC Board 2000 Campaign

Robert & Ruthalee Carroll
 Dennis & Theresa Clower
 JoAnn Dawson
 Suzan Doordan
 Jerry & Barbara Hendricks
 Larry & Judy Klevans
 Jerry Newman
 Nancy Simpers
 Robert Willmann



... and to the following new members:

Ann E Anderson	Jack & Kitty Hendricks
Jack & Susan Bartley	Chris Hyde
James E. Brady Sr.	Gee Funeral Home
Christopher &	Kathleen & Stewart Lee
Kimberly Burkhard	Walter & Terri Lokey
Buttonwood Beach	Marina Lutz
R.V. Resort	McCrone Inc.
Matthew Casey	Cheryl & Edward
Gale Casini	McKeown
George P.W. Coudaon	Mr. & Mrs. Steve
Crystal Inn	Mahoney
Ted & JoAnn Dawson	Devon & Julie Price
Mr. & Mrs. Mario	Kathy & Laura Sanderson
Diamonte	John & Barbara Shockley
Melanie & Dan Duff	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Smith
Allaire C. duPont	James & Barbara Waters
Janine & Fran Fraticelli	
Mr & Mrs. Harold	
Friedline	



President, cont.

we have asked of her through this transitional period and done it well. She and Education Director, Holly Hannum, have borne the burden of extra duties in keeping the program going without missing a beat. And, of course, Sue, our Administrative Assistant, and the rest of the Education staff, our devoted teachers, make this Nature Center the wonderful jewel it has become. We have a solid, successful foundation upon which we will be able to build even greater things.

A big part of our hope for the full-time position was that we could increase development (funds and cooperative arrangements) which would allow us to add and even improve programs. We believe we have found the right person to help us get there.

--Dennis Clower, President



Former Presidents Ralph Young and Jim Campbell at the Nature Center's first Fox Trot Ball, October, 1999.

2nd Annual Fox Trot Ball Set

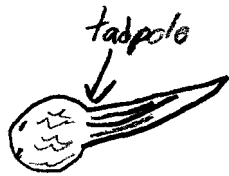
Mark your calendars for the Second Annual Fox Trot Ball scheduled for Saturday, October 21st at Fair Hill which promises to be even better than the Center's first effort. Coordinator of the event, Suzan Doordan, stated, "Last year's festivities marked the Nature Center's tenth anniversary. The black tie gala was an overwhelming success including wonderful gourmet food and wine, lovely carriage rides through Fair Hill's majestic woodlands, a visually beautiful unique Balloon Glow at dusk, and wonderful big band music for dancing, provided by the Rhythm Doctors."

Touted as something a little bit different and definitely "top drawer," the Ball Committee is meeting shortly to begin planning the October event. If any member wishes to help out, please contact Sue, at the Nature Center, at 410-398-4909, to be placed on the Committee.

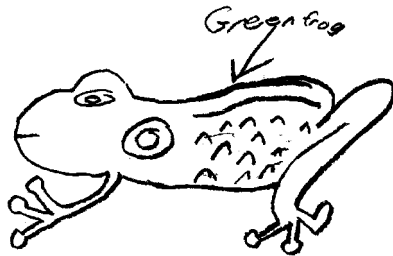
S.W.A.T. Clean-up Day

August 12 8:00 - 9:30 am

Help keep Cecil County roads free of litter by donating a morning to cleaning up the Nature Center's adopted two mile stretch of Route 273. Meet at Wesley's Restaurant parking lot at 8:00 am. Gloves and other materials will be supplied by the Nature Center. For more information, call the Center at (410) 398-4909.



Fair Hill Creatures by
4th grader,
Chesapeake City
Elementary School



Thanks to Jason Scott, University of Delaware VISTA Leader (bottom right), his group of volunteers, and Education staff, for their tremendous clean-up of Hurricane Floyd debris and trail repair this spring at the Nature Center!

Fox Trot, cont.

"We are looking for volunteers to help plan the event and to transform the Ed Walls Activity Building into a woodland paradise. There are many ways to help and no experience is needed. We can use everyone," commented Doordan. "This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the Nature Center by meeting other folks who wish to continue the excellent educational programs for which the Fair Hill Nature Center is known and acclaimed."



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 Maryland, SE Pennsylvania, and N Delaware. Its mission is to promote responsible stewardship through an appreciation and understanding of our environment.

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<http://FairHillNature.org>

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