



Habitats

Tails Out of School

Soil Conservation Grant Received, Fourth Grade Classes Funded

By Holly Hannum
Fair Hill Nature Center Education Director

The Outdoor School is pleased to announce a partnership with the Cecil Soil Conservation District. District manager, Charlie Hayes, has been active throughout the development of our new soil program designed to correlate with a Cecil County fourth-grade unit called "Land and Water." Now the Board of Directors of the Soil Conservation District has agreed to fund program fees for all the **Cecil County fourth grade students** for the 2001-2002 school year. The students will learn:

- the value of soil as a natural resource.
- the effects of water in shaping the land and learn about the humus layer.
- the importance of trees and other plants in both soil formation and the prevention of soil erosion.

There will no cost to students, thanks to this generous sponsorship. We look forward to a continuing relationship as we hone our new program and add handouts and follow-ups.

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SKIPJACK MARTHA LEWIS

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING CRUISE . . .

This year is our first year of experimentation with adding sailing to our former totally woody atmosphere. During our summer camp, Karen Aspinwall will be escorting campers (twenty children) on a three-hour educational sail on the Chesapeake Bay. Personally, this sounded like so much fun, we decided the big kids might want to do that also.

Relax on an evening cruise on the Skipjack Martha Lewis, while cruising the beautiful Chesapeake Bay.



*We'll set sail from Havre de Grace,
at 6:00 p.m. on August 17.
Please register by June 29.*

Cost is \$20.00 a person for members, \$25.00 for non members. We'll bring a cooler of subs and drinks for your dining pleasure. If there are too many for one cruise, we'll schedule another one for a different date!

Come Sail with Us!

Summer Camp

Summer Camps are almost upon us. Our newest program, "The Bay Starts Here," this year includes a trip on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. This program filled early and is a sure thing to return next year. There are still openings in "Into the Woods" and camps in weeks four and five, so call now to reserve a space for your child.

Weeks still available: (Times 9-11:30)

- June 18-22 Fair Hill Friends, Ages 3-4 (T,W,Th)
- July 9-13 Into the Woods Ages 8-12 (M-F)
- July 16-20 Imagination Camp Ages 6-7 (M-F)
- July 16-20 Best of Waterworks Ages 8-11 (M-F)
- July 23-27 Summer Critters Ages 5-7 (M-F)
- July 23-27 Hike and Build Ages 8-11 (M-F)

Call for more information, 410-398-4909

School Projects

There are always many building needs for the school. Some of these projects will be manned (boyed?) by Eagle Scouts and some will be completed by Americorps Volunteers. Some no doubt will fall to board members and volunteers. Projects that are on the drawing board are:

- Post and rail fence (around the picnic area)
- Refurbishing dock in the pond
- Rebuilding a soil erosion table
- Building a compost bin
- Trail maintenance
- Buffer zone replanting

*April 22 was a great day for an
Earth Day Birthday!*

By Barbara Snyder, Program Director

THIS FUND-RAISER NETTED \$6,800 FOR THE NATURE CENTER AND WILL BE USED FOR OUTREACH AND EXHIBITS.

Earth Day Kudos to:

Our Board of Directors came through in their unselfish service to Fair Hill Nature Center. From yard clean up and trail maintenance, backbreaking hard labor toting tables, to donating tents, time and talents, they've done it all!

Our staff and their volunteers from **GS Troops 720, and 1187 (Oxford) and 142 (Elkton)** worked hard to make face painting, stream searching, snake petting, sandbox treasures and fish printing a success. Thanks to staff: Holly Hannum, Janet Fallon, Erlene Michener, and volunteers Jeanne Devine, Rosanna Monterosso, Sarah Wright, Doug Fallon, Andrea and Kerri Wilkins, Lindsay Hannum, Anna and Kevin Jones, Dawn and Bill Preske.

Joe Tropp (Entomologist) was on hand for insect identification-what a wealth of information! **Gary Griffith** gave instructions on bird watching (and listening) and taught several songs/jokes to help us remember what the bird calls sound like. **Charlie Gant** helped look for stream residents in a tributary of the Big Elk. (His picture was in the Cecil Whig helping Girl Scouts work toward their ecology badges).

Delicious food was prepared by **Buck's Catering** and birthday cake was enjoyed by all.

President Dennis Clower was on hand to dedicate a **Memorial Garden** where trees may be planted to commemorate loved ones that were near and dear to the Nature Center. Madaline Newman and Fran Young were honored with a Kwanzan Cherry and Flowering Plum.

During our fund-raiser, we raffled a lovely Great Blue Heron sculpture (donated by Board Member Ralph Young) and a Weeping Cherry tree (donated by **Sanctuary Gardens** in North East. Local bird enthusiast Leslie Fisher was elated with the sculpture and teacher Lisa Wilkins was delighted with the tree.



Earth Day Sandbox Treasure Hunt!

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Education Director

Holly Hannum

Teacher/Naturalists

Janet Fallon

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Lisa Wilkins

Karen Aspinwall

Administrative Assistant

Pat Holleran

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Snyder

UPCOMING EVENTS :

The Fair Hill Nature Center wants to extend a warm welcome to you at any time. We're working on several new exhibits over the next few months that will enable you to enjoy the Center, even if the doors are locked! Plan a picnic next Sunday and take advantage of our lovely picnic area behind the center. Observe the birds (and sneaky squirrels) as they visit our new feeders. Come during school hours or to an event and see our new indoor beehive (courtesy of **Laura Linton**).

Calendar of Events

STARGAZING AND MUSIC – NATURE CENTER

FRIDAY, JULY 13, RAIN DATE JULY 15, 8:30 P.M.

Come learn about the stars, thanks to NE High School Science Teacher Linda Tinsman. Cost to non members: \$3.00.

SKIPJACK MARTHA LEWIS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 17, 6:00 P.M.

Come for an evening sail on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. We'll have food and drink and relaxation. Cost to members \$20.00, Non members - \$25.00. Registration required by June 29 (so we'll know whether to schedule another cruise). If you miss this date – call anyway – there may still be an option for you if we schedule for another date.

FISH WALK – NATURE CENTER

BIG ELK CREEK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.

Parke John will help you explore the underwater regions of Big Elk Creek. Learn what species lurk under the water! Cost to non members, \$3.00

PUPPETS, COOK-OUT AND MUSIC – NATURE CENTER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 2:00 P.M.

Board of Directors Member Rick Waterhouse will provide "Miles of Smiles."

We'll sing songs for a half hour, make puppets, take a short break for some food and drink, then get the kids together for a few more songs and a chance for them to try out their new puppets. Come giggle along with the kids. Cost to members-\$3.00, non-members, \$6.00. Registration required.



FALL EVENTS:

OCTOBER 20, LEAF WALK,
10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 10, FOX TROT BALL,
6:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 8, SANTA HAYRIDE,
PINECONE BIRDFEEDERS, CRAFTS
2:00 P.M.

**All this and the beauty of
Fair Hill Nature Center too.**



A peek at the frogs before the Frenzy began. Approximately 75 guests attended our Frog Frenzy on April 6. Bob Willmann gave a great demonstration and brought guest frogs to our Frenzy. The night hike to see the frogs was a treat, a campfire with hot dogs and marshmallows was enjoyed by all afterwards.

Nature Center has Email!

One of the few disadvantages of being so far out in the beautiful countryside was that the phone lines are quite unreliable. In April we installed a new line and now have email.

We would love to start getting our address book organized.

Email us with "Add to List" in the subject line.

You can email to: fairhillnature@dol.net.

Check our website: FairHillNature.org. You'll find interesting articles, program information, teachers can link to science sites, you can join our membership and donate to our cause!

Please Welcome our new Administrative Assistant:
Pat Holleran from North East recently joined our staff at the Nature Center. Please stop by during school hours (9-3) and welcome her!



Some plants that will attract Butterflies are: Asters, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susans, Butterfly bush, Catmint, Chives, Cosmos, Lantana, Liatris, Mexican Sunflower, Nicotiana, Physotegia (Dragon's Teeth), Pineapple Sage, Purple Coneflower (Echinacia), Queen Anne's lace, Sedum, Thistle, Verbena, Weigela, Yarrow, Zinnia.

Fair Hill Nature Center and Environmental Foundation, Inc.
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Some Camps Not Full Yet -
see details inside

Come . . .Stargaze, Sail Away
with Us, Fish Hunt, Sing &
Make Puppets, visit our new
indoor beehive

