



Fair Hill Nature Center

# Habitats

Volume 13, Issue 1

April 2002

*Come to:*

# 2002 Fair Hill SpringFest

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Live Music  
Starting at 1:00

Arts & Crafts

Biking  
10am-1pm

Plant  
Sale

Food

Hiking  
10am-1pm

Children's  
Games &  
Activities

**Saturday, May 11, 2002, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

## President's Swan Song

*by Dennis Clower, President, Board of Directors*

As I related at the Fox Trot Ball, I remember my recruitment as a Fair Hill Board Member as having occurred while I was flying with Larry Klevans in his "Black Eagle", balloon; and the swans came up and flew with us. Therefore it is appropriate at this time that my last message as President be my "Swan Song." Like Mark Twain who came in and left with Halley's comet, I came in with the swans and I leave with my Swan Song.

I wish I could say that my tenure as President of the Board has seen a resolution of all the issues and difficulties that confront the Nature Center. But that would not be true. There have been high points and low points; but I prefer to dwell on the high points. In response to our year-end Special Appeal, we found a great number of friends who were willing to help. This gives us not only a financial lift but an emotional one as well. At the same time as that was going on, we were also engaged in the beginnings of a reevaluation of our Strategic Plan. This will be ongoing but is headed in a very positive direction to ensure our continued existence and expansion of programs. Of course, the usual numbers of elementary students were served over the past two years, which has always been our primary focus, but also the number of family and other programs has expanded considerably. The current Board believes that we can continue to expand this recreational piece of our vision and we are committed to do that with the expert assistance of our staff and volunteers.

I continue to be gratified, if not amazed, by the number of good people who are willing to work to make the mission of the Environmental Foundation a reality. This includes Board members, staff members, volunteers and supporters. It inspires all of us to see that others are pitching in and helping too. I know of no other enterprise that is more worthy of our time and support than the promotion of "responsible stewardship through an appreciation and understanding of our environment."

It is tradition that the swan sings its most beautiful song, right before it dies; hence the expression. I do not intend to die, however, nor even to leave the Board of Directors quite yet. There are some projects I want to see come to fruition before that. But it is a natural part of life that deaths and retirements occur. It is also essential to the health of an organization that there be changes in leadership. I am pleased with the direction we are headed and have no doubt that we will prosper under the changes. So while this may be my "Swan Song" as President, it is not my final act for the Nature Center. And with your continued and increased support, we have every reason to believe that there will never be a need for the Center itself to sing that song. Its current song has too much vitality.

## Tails Out of School

*by Holly Hannum, Education Director*

After a busy winter of outreach programs the outdoor school is gearing up to begin spring programming here at the Nature Center. Our outreach program visited fifty-four kindergartens in our area. Many thanks to student intern Andrew Stuhl for his assistance in January. Andrew, a junior at Salisbury University majoring in biology, was a delight to kindergarteners with his lively and enthusiastic program introductions. Thanks also to our sponsoring organizations Basell Inc., Cecil County Arts Council, Rising Sun and Cecilton Lions Clubs.

After such a gentle winter it has been easy to jump into our spring soils program. The spring peepers greeted Caravel Academy's fourth grade on our first day of programming. It was 67 degrees!

Our summer camp schedule includes several new offerings. "The Bay Starts Here" has been expanded to 9am to 3pm to include a multitude of Chesapeake Bay explorations. Our "Wilderness Adventure" camp will include a Thursday night camp over at the McCloskey site. Bring your imaginations to "Nature Wizards" as we enjoy our own wizard school adventures. "Fair Hill Friends" will once again offer nature discoveries for three and four year olds and their adult friend. Register ASAP to be sure of getting your first choice of camps.

*(Look for Camp flyer insert at end of newsletter)*



Children enjoy "becoming" the animals while learning from "Mother Nature" at a recent Kindergarten Outreach Program at Calvert Elementary given by the staff from the Nature Center.

<p><b>Saturday</b>  <b>May 11, 2002</b>  <b>10:00-5:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Cecil County Fairgrounds</b></p>		<p><i><b>Come join the Hikers starting from the Nature Center and Mountain Bikers starting from Ed Walls Building</b></i></p>
<p>Come enjoy great FOOD—listen to continuous Live Music:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob Northrup</li> <li>• Borderline Conspiracy</li> <li>• TomMcAllee</li> </ul> 	<p>Come buy Mother her special gift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts and Crafts from local vendors</li> <li>• Plant Sale, including flower and vegetable plants grown at University of Delaware, raffle for large specimen plants</li> <li>• Watch as the children make their own flowerpot and fill it with a plant for Mother.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Children's Activities including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mask Making</i></li> <li>• <i>Fish Printing</i></li> <li>• <i>Puppet Show and Puppet Making</i></li> <li>• <i>Sand Box Hunt</i></li> <li>• <i>Button making</i></li> <li>• <i>Pony Rides (and carriage rides)</i></li> <li>• <i>Hayrides</i></li> </ul>

*SpringFest* is a “joint effort” for Fair Hill Nature Center and Upper Bay Counseling & Support Center. What a good match, healthy minds working toward a healthy planet!

We need your support to make this effort a success. The funds raised by both organizations are to be shared equally and will benefit children of Cecil County.

Committees have been working since last fall to make *SpringFest* an event you’ll remember. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a day in the country.

**Music:**  
Our music committee has planned continuous music starting at 1:00 p.m. We’ll hear from Rob Northrup, Borderline Conspiracy, and Tom McAllee will sing the blues. We’ll have picnic tables and seating – so come enjoy.

**Food:**  
We’ll serve lunch and refreshments – sandwiches, pasta salad, hot dogs, sodas, chips, sno cones.

**Remember Mother:**  
There will be arts and crafts available for sale. We’ve invited crafters to come enjoy a day in the country.

Plan on visiting *SpringFest* for Mother’s gift instead of traveling to a stuffy mall.

A plant sale will take place. University of Delaware is donating plants they’ve grown, along with several local nurseries. There will be a variety of annuals, perennials, vegetables and woody ornamentals. We’ll also raffle four large plants throughout the day.

If anyone has any plants (herbs, vegetables, perennials) they would like to donate, please **pot and label them**, and bring to nature center the week of April 29 through May 3 from 9:00 –3:30.

**Children’s Activities:**  
Fair Hill Stables will provide pony rides for children and will have carriages available for “other riders”.

Fair Hill Nature Center teachers and volunteers will be on hand to teach children through many games and activities.

Fair Hill International will be having an equestrian event at the back of the fairgrounds. They welcome you to check out the dressage, jumping and cross-country.

**Volunteers:**

We always need volunteers for events and activities at the nature center.

We now have a monthly mailing of our new “What’s the Buzz” bulletin. We’re trying to get word of our programs to everyone and you can help us with copying, labeling and sorting. In addition to the “snail” variety of notification, we’ll be sending flyers out via email.

Another opportunity for volunteering is during our *monthly programs*. Through late fall, there are two programs per month scheduled. One is scheduled during the week (Wednesday evening) and one is scheduled on Saturday. Help with preparing/serving/clean-up of refreshments is needed, helping with registration, or being a guide is always appreciated.

We would like to start keeping the center open on weekends. If you want to “get away from it all”, come learn about the nature center and help us keep the doors open for other park users. Please call Pat Holleran (our administrative assistant) at (410) 398-4909 if you’d like to volunteer.

## Board of Directors

**Dennis Clower,**  
President  
**Dan Schneckenburger**  
Vice President  
**Larry Klevans,**  
Treasurer  
**Barbara Snyder,**  
Secretary

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**Charles Dolor**  
**Suzan Doordan**  
**Douglas Hill**  
**Phyllis Kilby**  
**William Lucas**  
**Jerry Newman**  
**Nancy Simpers**  
**Charles Smith**  
**Rebecca Taccone**  
**Rick Waterhouse**  
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**Ralph Young**

## Honorary Members

**Patricia duPont**  
**Rep. Wayne Gilcrest**  
**Del. Ronald Guns**  
**George Prettyman**  
**Del. David Rudolph**

## Staff:

**Education Director**  
Holly Hannum

**Teacher/Naturalists**  
Karen Aspinwall  
Janet Fallon  
Erlene Michener  
Catherine Harjung  
Taffy Straughn  
Lisa Wilkins

**Administrative Assistant**  
Pat Holleran

**Newsletter Editor**  
Barbara Snyder

## BUZZ, BUZZ, BUZZ:

The Fair Hill Nature Center welcomes back our bee friends. Our hive had a vacation (courtesy of **Laura Linton-Beekeeper**) who kept the bees during the winter and brought them back in a much bigger hive (thanks to *Country Thyme Gardeners*). Come visit us and welcome them back!

## Calendar of Events

### WILDFLOWER WALK

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 AT 10:00 A.M. (NO RAIN DATE)

Doris Anderson and Holly Hannum will lead a short hike to observe and learn about the wildflowers here at Fair Hill Natural Resources Area. Cost to non-members: \$3.00.

### BACKYARD CONSERVATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 AT 7:00 P.M. (NO RAIN DATE)

Cecil Soil Conservation District will present a program on backyard conservation. Learn what you can do "Save the Earth" for your own Earth Day activity. Cost to non-members: \$3.00.

### SPRINGFEST

SATURDAY, MAY 11 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

CECIL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

(See previous page)

### LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 7:00 P.M.

### BUTTERFLY GARDENING

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 10:00 A.M.

### BECAUSE WE'RE BEES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 7:00 P.M.

### SEAFOOD APPETIZERS AND RECIPE SWAP

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

### FISH WALK

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 10:00 WITH PARKE JOHN

### SKIPJACK MARTHA LEWIS

AUGUST

### BAY TALK AT UPPER BAY MUSEUM

AUGUST

### THE TRADITION OF FOXCHASING AT FAIR HILL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 7:00 P.M. WITH ERLENE MICHENER

### CRAB FEAST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, AT 3:00 P.M.

Instead of the Fox Trot Ball this year (because Suzan Doordan our hostess with the mostess is leaving us), we've decided to hold a Crab Feast – more details later . . . Put this date on your calendar now!



## New Board Members

We are in the process of interviewing new board members for our hard-working Board of Directors. Two nominees have already accepted (**Hinda Smith, Assistant Principal at Gilpin Manor Elementary and Laurie Murphy of Cecil Federal Bank**). If you would like to talk with us about an opportunity to serve Fair Hill Nature Center, please call Dennis Clower at (410) 398-7400 or Dan Schneckenburger at (410) 996-1643.

## Thank You

Jerry Newman, Holly Hannum and Janet Fallon provided a very informative workshop on March 2. Jerry taught us about Bluebirds and helped us build houses for our feathered friends.

Holly and Janet had already tapped the maple trees in front of the Nature



Center and served the resulting syrup with pancakes (of course).



## Yard Clean-up

Scout Troop #443 helped leader Janet Fallon with a Nature Center Yard Clean-up effort on Saturday, March 9, 2002. There were a lot of branches and leaves left from the winter. Of course, since the clean up, there have been two days of 50 mph winds! Thankfully, the weekend before the clean up there were terrific winds also – so boys – it still looks great. Thank you for helping the make the Nature Center look it's very best for the upcoming season. Another Trail Clean-up took place on March 23. (There are a lot of volunteer opportunities out here!)

## Lost a Friend

One of the maple trees in front of the Nature Center has succumbed to disease. Holly is upset that she's losing a source of sap for making maple syrup, but branches keep breaking off the tree, creating a hazard to one and all. The tree has been cut down. John Styer of North East, Maryland (Wood Turner Extraordinaire) has taken some wood to be used in the manufacture of his lovely "turned wood" pens. The remainder of the wood will be cut and stacked for use by the Nature Center, board members and members in general. Please contact Jerry Newman at (410) 658-5187 if you would like to take some of the wood.

## Black Bridge still out

Hurricane Floyd is still being felt at the Nature Center. The bridge on Black Bridge Road is still missing. News from Department of Natural Resources is that work has begun and it will be completed by fall of 2002. You still have to enter from Route 273 (Entrance 3) and wind your way back to the center past the horse racing barns.

## Hiking

The trails at Fair Hill Natural Resources Area are beginning to come alive with the sights and sounds of spring. Snowbells are blooming, bluebirds are singing,

frogs are peeping. In the places where farms existed many years ago, you'll see forsythia and daffodils blooming.

Come enjoy a great hike and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the picnic area behind the center while you watch our bird feeders being depleted.

Because of the construction at Black Bridge site, some trails around the area are closed. Check the signs in the parking area at the Covered Bridge.

## Membership

As every organization should, the nature center has gone through a dusting and cleaning of their membership database. Please bear with us while we spiff up our techniques and lists. There are still some cobwebs in there!

Many of you have received letters asking for membership renewal. The levels of membership are as follows:

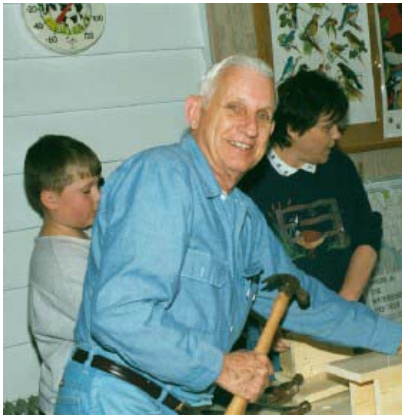
\$15 Senior/Student  
\$20 Individual  
\$30 Family  
\$50 Business  
\$75 Patron  
\$150 Sponsor  
\$500 Life Member

We also have asked for current email addresses in order for our current files to be updated. Email is much more "current" than snail mail.

## Current Events at Fair Hill

April 4-9 Fair Hill Int'l Horse Trials  
April 27 Red Heart Native American Festival  
May 5 – WXC Family Fun Day  
May 11-SpringFest  
May 11-Fair Hill Int'l Horse Trials  
May 18 Scottish Games  
May 27 Memorial Day Races

Department of Natural Resources Website  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/fairhill.html>



Jerry Newman, our "Mr. Bluebird" lectured and demonstrated just how easy it is to lure bluebirds back into our lives on March 2, 2002.

## Nature Center has Email!

We have started sending our "What's the Buzz" bulletins via email (and snail mail). Unfortunately, we don't have all your email addresses. Approximately 15 messages came back with "unknown recipient". If you've changed your email address, please remember to let us know!

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

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You can email to: [fairhillnature@dol.net](mailto:fairhillnature@dol.net). We'll be happy to add you to our growing email address list.

Check our website: [FairHillNature.org](http://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 all on one easy to navigate website!

## Summer Day Camp 2002

### ***Week #1 – June 17-21***

Summer Critters	Ages 5-7	9-11:30 a.m.
The Bay Starts Here	Ages 8-13	9-3:00 p.m.
Hike & Bike	Ages 9-11	9-11:30 a.m.

### ***Week #2 – June 24-28***

Imagination Camp	Ages 6-7	9-11:30 a.m.
Wilderness Adventure	Ages 8-12,	9-11:30 a.m.

### ***Week #3 – July 8-12***

Summer Critters	Ages 5-7	9-11:30 a.m.
Craft Camp	Ages 7-11	9-11:30 a.m.
Fair Hill Friends	Ages 3-4	9:15-11:15 a.m.

### ***Week #4 – July 15-19***

Imagination Camp	Ages 6-7	9-11:30 a.m.
Nature Wizards	Ages 8-12	9-11:30 a.m.

### ***Week #4 – July 22-26***

Summer Critters	Ages 5-7	9-11:30 a.m.
Best of Waterworks	Ages 8-12	9-11:30 a.m.

Call for details, prices range from \$60 to \$140 per camp.  
Members get discount

**Call 410-398-4909 for more information**

Fair Hill Nature Center and Environmental Foundation, Inc.  
630 Tawes Drive  
Elkton, MD 21921

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# Fair Hill Nature Center

## Summer Day Camp 2002

Times and fees for individual camps are listed below. M=Member/NM=NonMember. 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. Limited number of scholarships available. Questions? Call (410) 398-4909

### Week #1: June 17-21

**A. Summer Critters** ages 5-7/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Explore Fair Hill and its creatures \$60 M/ \$75 NM  
through age appropriate games, crafts, hikes. New activities  
each year.

**B. The Bay Starts Here!** ages 8-13/ 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Expanded all day camp! \$120 M/ \$140 NM  
Discover the Chesapeake Bay watershed through hikes,  
games and hands-on activities along its tributaries. On  
Friday, campers will take a special field trip to board the  
skipjack Martha Lewis and explore the headwaters of the  
Chesapeake Bay.

**NEW!** **C. Hike and Bike** ages 9-11/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Ride your mountain bike \$60 M/ \$75 NM  
and hike your hiking shoes all over Fair Hill! Learn trail  
etiquette, bike safety skills and bike maintenance.  
Note: Limit: 10 campers.

### Week #2: June 24-28

**A. Imagination Camp** ages 6-7/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Discover nature's wonders \$60 M/ \$75 NM  
through stories, explorations and imagination play.

**NEW!** **B. Wilderness Adventure** ages 8-12/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Pack a backpack, learn basic \$80M/ \$95 NM  
"survivor" skills and camp over at Fair Hill on Thursday  
night!

### Week #3: July 8-12

**A. Summer Critters** ages 5-7/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Same as week # 1 \$60 M/ \$75 NM

**B. Craft Camp** ages 7-11/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Create fun projects \$60 M/ \$75 NM  
using natural materials mixed with other media. New  
activities each year.

**C. Fair Hill Friends** ages 3-4/ 9:15-11:15 a.m.  
Bring an adult friend to share \$30 M/ \$40 NM  
Fair Hill's natural wonders.  
Note: this camp is held Tues., Wed. and Thurs. only.

### Week #4: July 15-19

**A. Imagination Camp** ages 6-7/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Same as week #1 \$60 M/ \$75 NM

**NEW!** **B. Nature Wizards** ages 8-12/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Become a nature wizard \$60 M/ \$75 NM  
with classes on Potions, Caring for Creatures, Slytherin lore,  
Herbology, Transfiguration, and more! Games, crafts and  
hikes help earn a Jr. Ranger O.W.L.

### Week #5: July 22-26

**A. Summer Critters** ages 5-7/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Same as Week #1 \$60 M/ \$75 NM

**B. Best of Waterworks** ages 8-12/ 9-11:30 a.m.  
Experiment with water, investigate \$60 M/ \$75 NM  
adaptations of aquatic animals, build a model boat and more!

#### Camp Application Form Total enclosed:\$

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Form

I'd like to:  become a member  
 renew my membership  
 \$20 Individual  \$30 Family  \$50 Business  
 \$75 Patron  \$150 Sponsor  \$500 Benefactor

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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