

Habitats

April 2003
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SPRINGFEST 2003



Music will be wafting through the air all day through the expertise of several groups and bands including: Dan Mazer, Borderline Conspiracy, Dallas, Tim and Friends, Apex Watson and Rick Waterhouse.

Arts and Crafts dealers will be on hand for you to purchase your Mother's Day gifts. Plants from University of Delaware will be on sale for your garden (or Mother's). The UD Botanic Gardens will be providing specimen plants again this year.

Children's Events will include make it take it activities including potting plants for Mom, games of skill, silly games, hayrides, pony rides, obstacle races, speed throwing and much more . . .

Our Sponsorship Team is out knocking on doors, asking for donations of goods, services and cash, welcome them when you see them!

so they go into the stream even deeper! Jerry has also been hard at work making boot drying racks (because you know kids nearly always get them wet inside).

We also received a generous donation from ATK Elkton LLC. Thanks ATK (and board member Bill Lucas).

SpringFest 2003 is coming again to Fair Hill Natural Resources Area at the Cecil County Fairgrounds on **May 3 from 10:00 until 4:00**. Our partnership with Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services continues this year in order to present another day of fun activities for you.

This year's *SpringFest* has even more excitement including several new activities that promise adventure and discovery, Trails to Treasure, Antiques Road show, 4H demonstrations, and Karaoke X-treme.

'Trails to Treasure' is a brand new activity this year. Both organizations are selling raffle tickets for \$5.00 each. There will only be 1000 tickets sold - contact your favorite board member for

tickets, or call the Nature Center. Ticket holders will be entered into a raffle. If you hike the trails and find the "treasure", you'll be eligible to win \$1000. If you choose not to hike, the prize is \$500. The winning number will be determined by May 3rd MD Pick 3 Lottery.

Our *Antiques Road Show* will include experts in the fields of books, collectibles, toys, glassware and furniture. For only \$5.00 you can bring your antique and have it appraised. Then, you can stroll the booths and discover more treasure.

4H Clubs will be part of our day. There will be a petting area, a lawn mower safety talk for children, pony rides and drill team.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES TO . . .

The Nature School needed some new boots for our 'muddy' springtime activities. Our former board member, Jerry Newman asked the Rising Sun Lion's Club if they would make a donation toward boots. Bud McFadden (owner of Western Auto in Rising Sun) is also on the Lion's

Club board. The Lion's Club donated \$200 toward the boots and Bud provided them at cost. We now have 19 pairs of new boots for our students. Some of the boots were ten years old and really needed to be replaced. We bought Size 12's for big kids and chaperones, and tall fives for little boys

Look for:

- SpringFest - May 3
- Memorial Garden - Barbara O'Neill
- Summer Camp descriptions

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Volunteer Profile

Volunteers are the life force of any non-profit organization and Fair Hill Nature Center and its volunteers are no exception. Volunteers can be any age, with any amount of time to give, from a one-time experience to someone who returns faithfully week after week. We have volunteers who come when we call, ("Jerry, the sink is stopped up again!") like Jerry Newman, head of our Buildings and Grounds committee or Jerry Hendricks who designs and maintains our website. We have volunteers who take on responsibility for special projects like our butterfly garden, or who come out for trails days or help at annual fundraisers. Boy Scout Troops think of us for Eagle projects and Girl Scout Troops run craft stations or face paint at our special events like SpringFest.

In this issue of Habitats, Fair Hill Nature Center would like to introduce you to an energetic and

dedicated young man who has volunteered for us two to four hours a week all fall. Billy Snider, a home schooled seventh grader, who enjoys paying video games, fishing, and hunting, shows up faithfully each Wednesday afternoon to hack multiflora rose with his trusty machete, haul mulch, build rock bridges, and cheerfully do anything the Fair Hill Teachers can think of. Bill says he likes to come out to the Center because it gives him something to do and he enjoys visiting with the Nature Center staff, feeding our snakes, and working outdoors. Last summer, when Billy attended the Chesapeake Bay Camp at Fair Hill, he enjoyed helping the leaders as much as being a camper. Bill's mom felt that the staff was "friendly and knowledgeable" so when the decision was made for Bill to home-school she called FHNC to ask if he could volunteer to supplement his home school curriculum. The staff was

delighted. "After Bill's helpfulness at summer camp, I knew we were getting a real worker!" teacher Janet Fallon noted. Bill's Mom adds, "Volunteering is experiential learning - by volunteering, Billy is learning to work with others, to schedule his time for volunteering, schoolwork and other activities, and obtaining a hands-on-learning environmental education."

If you are interested in volunteering at Fair Hill call 410-398-4909. We need someone to organize our newspaper clippings scrapbook, to photograph programs, help ready our newsletter for mailing, register patrons at our member programs, or help with trails days. Many volunteers are needed for SpringFest, May 3 at the Cecil County Fairgrounds. This day of activities benefits Fair Hill Environmental Foundation and Upper Bay Counseling and Support Services.

"Volunteering is experiential learning..."



Billy Snider,
volunteer extraordinaire

After School Program

Last fall, the Nature School started a new program of community outreach, by providing an after school nature club at two local elementary schools for 6 weeks, with a wrap-up activity at the Nature

Center. Children from Kenmore Elementary and Leeds Elementary participated in the fun activities developed by education director Holly Hannum, and teacher/naturalist Karen Aspinwall.

A spring program will be run at Leeds and Kenmore Elementary schools, one day per week at each school. Many thanks to Holly and Karen for developing this new program.



Tails Out Of School



A Winter's Tail

With the blizzard of 03 behind us the outdoor school is preparing to take to the trails.

We enjoyed a preview of spring weather on March 15 as we cleared away the remnants of winter and cleaned up the trails in preparation for spring classes to begin on March 25. Chesapeake City fourth graders will be the first to join us this year

for a study of water and its impact on the land at Fair Hill.

We have not been hibernating but managed to visit sixty kindergarten classes this winter in spite of the snow through our outreach program "A Winter's Tail." A mini-play tells the story of Bernatious Aloysius turtle and his forest friends as they prepare for winter. The concepts of

migration, hibernation, and animal instincts are the focus of the play. After the play students travel to different stations set up in the classroom to meet a live animal, feel and identify biofacts in a six person touch box, put together a 4 foot by 8 foot habitat puzzle, and place animals in their correct habitat in a stamping activity.

Summer Camp

Planning has begun for this year's summer camp (see enclosed brochure) and includes some old favorites as well as some new offerings. Nature Wizards at "Frogwarts" Academy will again work their spells with owls and potions featuring the real magic to be found in nature.

Our extended day "Chesapeake Bay Camp" will feature two days of field trips as campers trace the Big Elk Creek from Chester County to the Bay and take a cruise on a skipjack. "Wilderness Adventure Camp" will add some new activities including outdoor cooking to encourage return

campers to join us at the McCloskey site for a Thursday overnight. Back this year is also "Imagination Camp and Craft Camp".

Three and four year olds and an adult friend can share a three-day "Introduction to Fair Hill" with teacher/naturalist Cathryn Harjung.

This summer five and six year olds can spend a week in "Summer Critters" investigating animal tracks, learning about Native Americans, and printing a T-shirt. Then they can return to enjoy a week of "Little Waterworks" exploring a variety of fun water activities with Karen

Aspinwall.

Doris Andersen is planning "Nature Takes the Stage"; where campers aged seven to twelve can design and perform a short play based on a story by popular environmental cartoonist Gary Larson. Another new offering this year is a whole week of insect activities called "Get Buggy" with Erlene Michener for campers, aged eight to ten. While summer still seems a long way off our camps fill up quickly so check out the schedule, grab your water shoes and prepare for a summer of fun and learning at Nature Camp.



"Frogwarts" Academy will again work their spells with owls and potions featuring the real magic to be found in nature.

A Message from the President

Spring has finally sprung after a long and hard winter. That means a chance to get outside and enjoy nature's awakening. The Nature Center has a full slate of activities planned for young and old in 2003 so come out and join us. And our second annual SpringFest looks to be bigger and better than last year (read more about this event in this issue). We hope to see you soon.

Dan Schneckenburger



Memorial Grove

For those of you who may not know, there is a grove beside the Nature Center that has been devoted to memorializing loved ones who have gone before us. Madeline Newman and Fran Young were honored with a flowering plum tree and a kwanzan cherry tree. They'll be blooming soon, come out and enjoy them.

The Nature Center's Memorial Grove will be enhanced this spring by

another planting. An Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) will honor Barbara O'Neill, longtime advocate for the environment, who died last year. Friends and colleagues of Barbara and her husband John chose this way to memorialize her dedication and achievements. Barbara was President of the Upper Chesapeake Bay Watershed Association and served as Cecil County's representative on the Maryland Critical Areas Commission. Barbara

also served on the Nature Center's Technical Advisory Committee, and she and John have been members since the beginning.

If there is anyone for whom you believe this would be a fitting tribute, please contact the Nature Center for details of how to contribute to her memorial, or you may email Jerry Hendricks at (hendrick@udel.edu) for further information.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
Fairhillnature.org

Upcoming Programs

Programs to look for:

Wildflower Walk	April 12	10:00 am
SWAT Road Cleanup	April 19	8:00 am
SpringFest 2003	May 3	10-4:00
Conservation Gardening	May 9	7:00 pm
Home School Day	May 28	12-2:30
All About Bees	June 13	7:00 pm
Fair Hill Training Center	June 14	7:00 am
Busy Beavers	July 19	
Skipjack Martha Lewis	August 9	6:00 pm



Fair Hill Nature Center
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