

HABITATS



Mother Nature and friends

Education Director Holly Hannum, as Mother Nature, tells the little "animals" of Cecil Manor Elementary School to either migrate, stay out and about, gather and store their food, or hibernate to survive the winter.

For more information on our education programs see "Tails out of school" on page 4.



Photo by Janet Fallon

Nature Center sees the light

The light now seen at the Nature Center comes from a more energy efficient source.

Member Jane Schaefer bestowed a gift of energy efficient light bulbs to the Nature Center this past fall.

Jane is actively involved working to protect our environment against pollution and preventing harmful climate change

that many scientists believe is caused by excessive carbon dioxide emissions.

Part of the national "Energy Star" program, Jane recommends that each building and household change over to energy efficient light bulbs that have earned the "Energy Star" on its product label.

According to govern-

ment standards, if every household in America replaced its five most frequently used regular bulbs with "Energy Star" bulbs, enough energy would be conserved to prevent the release of more than one trillion pounds of harmful pollutants each year.

To learn more about the "Energy Star" program, call 1-888-782-7937 or visit energystar.gov.

Save-The-Date



For
The Fair Hill Nature Center's

Foxtrot Ball



October 22, 2005
from 6 to 10 p.m.
at the Ed Wall's Center.
For more information call
410-398-4909

Habitats is all The Buzz...

Hopefully by now you've noticed you're not reading *The Buzz*. We decided to retire *The Buzz* in favor of a more community-related and interactive newsletter — *Habitats*.

Habitats will be your window into the Nature Center. We will tell you all about upcoming events and programs, recognize our volunteers for all their hard work, publish commentary from our members and board of directors, and keep you abreast of important issues involving our community on the local, regional and

national levels.

Habitats will be published bi-monthly and will likely go through a few different formats until we settle into something we're comfortable with. I hope you'll bear with us as we grow.

Speaking of growing, there's no better way to know if you're growing in the right direction without feedback. I would like to hear from each and every one of you. To make this easy on you, I've put together a membership survey for you to fill out. I need to know what's important

to you, what kind of events and programs you would like to attend, if you're interested in guest speakers, and much more.

Please, take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey, fold it over, slap a stamp on it and send it back to us by April 15. I will compile the results and publish them in a future issue of *Habitats*. At the Nature Center, your opinion really does matter.

Cynthia Miller
Editor

CONSERVATION:

To have a global impact -- start at home

by **Mario Gangemi**
President, FHNEC

As I prepared my first newsletter address I reviewed the "Mission" and "Vision" Statements developed several years ago for the Fair Hill Nature Center. Our Mission Statement indicates, "Our aim is to promote responsible stewardship through an appreciation and understanding of our environment." In our Vision Statement, "We envision a regional community where people respect, protect, and preserve the natural environment and its resources."

What's the definition of "Regional?" Is it just your backyard or neighborhood? Or is it just the local three-state area? Should we only be concerned with protecting our local natural resources or should we be an advocate beyond our familiar territory?

I recently attended a seminar on the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). As many of you know there is debate about opening this approximately 19 million acre refuge to oil drilling. According to information discussed during the seminar only approxi-

mately six months of oil supply may exist within the refuge.

Should we care? It is not in our backyard or even in our neighborhood. I believe we should look beyond. President Dwight D. Eisenhower set aside a large portion of that land in the mid 1950s and President Jimmy Carter more than doubled it in 1980 to preserve untouched territory for posterity.

What can we do from here? It is a National Refuge so this is a Congressional issue. Find out the position of your Congressman or Senator. If they are in support of your position on ANWR then thank them. If they are against your position then do your best to convince them otherwise.

What else can we do? The answer is simple. Be energy conservative. Replace incandescent bulbs with fluorescent. Keep your tires maintained at the correct pressure. Turn the thermostat back a little in the winter and up in the summer. Just a little by all of us can go a long ways toward decreasing the dependence on fossil fuels and taking actions consistent with our Mission and Vision.

FHNEC Needs YOU to volunteer...

...for our upcoming events and activities!

For more information, please contact Cathryn Harjung at
410-398-4909 or charjung@zoominternet.net

Tails out of school...

by **Holly Hannum**

Education Director, FHNEC

There was little chance to hibernate this winter for our box turtle Bernate or the Outdoor school staff. We were busy visiting kindergartners around Cecil and New Castle counties. It is always a delight to watch the excitement in the eyes of a five year old receiv-

ing her first round of applause. We believe our theatre presentation "A Winter's Tail" may be planting the seeds for the next generation of Oscar contenders. Role-playing is an ideal way to present content material to young children. We hope that saying "hi" to Bernate will forever remind them of how some

animals prepare for winter. Special thanks to the Cecil County Arts Council, The United Way of Cecil County, and the Lions Clubs of Cecilton and Rising Sun for making it possible to bring this original program at no cost to all Cecil County Public School kindergartners.

See "Register" Pg 6.

Fair Hill Spring Fest

May 21st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At the

Cecil County Fairgrounds

Plant sales, children's activities, nature walks, live music, 5K Run/Walk, Moon Bounce, Arts and Crafts, 4H and Farm Demonstrations, home made ice cream and lots of good food!

It's fun for the whole family!

Proceeds to benefit the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center

Fair Hill Foxtrot 5K Run/Walk

to benefit the Fair Hill Nature Center

Saturday, May 21 at 8 a.m.



Race starts and finishes at the Cecil County Fair Grounds in the Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area in Fair Hill, Maryland off Rt. 273.

register online @ **active.com** an eventsource.com service
 Registration: \$16 Pre-registration \$20 Day of event
 Student Rate: \$12 Pre-registration \$16 Day of event

or

Mail entry form and payment to:

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

Race info: (410) 398 - 4909

Make checks payable to:

Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center
 Check the website: www.races2run.com



Age Categories

Male	Female
12 & under	12 & under
13 - 19	13 - 19
20 - 29	20 - 29
30 - 39	30 - 39
40 - 49	40 - 49
50 - 59	50 - 50
60+	60+

Special thanks...

... go to the following people and businesses for their end of year contribution to the Nature Center:

Fair Hill Auto Center, Hinda Smith, Paulette Smith, William & Donna Short, David & Elizabeth Zug, Keystone Overhead Door, Russell Holland, Joyce Bowlsbey, Terrence Wolf, Gary Routh, W. Stephen Pannill, William Pannill, James Sweigard, Angela Farmer, George Coddling, David Frey, John Leitgeb, Jane Hickman Gant, Laura Hartwell, Jennifer Gracie, Denise Rosaio, Beverly Duff, Janis Peters, Cecil Federal Bank, Nancy Deboda, Susan Mackenzie, Timothy Nolan, R.L. Jackson, Inc., Barbara Kunkle, Judith Kennegy, Patricia Nester, Ralph Young, McCrone, Inc., American Termite, Dennis Collins, Doug & Nina Hill, S.W. Gould, Sally Young, Julia Crothers, Gerald Newman, Linda Foreaker, Kathy & Bill Lucas, Richard & Deana Benson, William & Sarah Ivey, Guy & Geraldine Edwards, Larry & Judy Klevans, Robert & Patricia Dean, Maryland Materials, Lin Klein, Lorene Newman, Michael & Connie Cox, Joan Dawson, Ruth & Ronald Hartman, Terry & Diane Wasko, Rebecca Taccone, VFW Post 6027, Gale Casini, James & Diane Thompson, Allaire DuPont, Richard & Corin Sernyak, William & Amy Ide, Eloise Davis, Louisa Price Zeh, Betty Ann Garrett, American Legion Susquehanna Post 135, Evelyn Logan, James & Diane Thompson, Mark & Barbara Crawford, Geraldine McKeown, Lorie Struzik, Elizabeth Scharr, Lyn Rector, Janet Yuninger, Carol Lewis-White, Betty Kackley, R. Eileen Gardner, Laurie Guinard and Joan Ewing.

What's Up?

March 5

Maple Sugaring (1 p.m.)
 Bluebird boxes (2:30 p.m.)

March 19

Trail Day (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

April 1

Wine and Cheese Tasting
 (6:30 - 10 p.m.)

April 15

Frog Frenzy (6:30 p.m.)

April 17

Wildflower Walk (2 p.m.)

May 21

SpringFest (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
 Foxtrot 5K Run/Walk
 (8 a.m.)

Pre-registration is required for all programs (except Spring Fest). Call 410-398-4909 for more information. Memberships are available at each event.



The Fair Hill Nature Center

Invites you to a

Wine and Cheese Tasting Extravaganza

Sponsored by Staline Liquors

April 1, 2005

from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Nature Center

Advance tickets required
 \$15 Per Person

Reservations are limited so get your tickets early by calling 410.398.4909

Register early for summer programs

Cont'd from Pg. 4

The first sign that spring will soon arrive at the nature center is a tap on the maple trees out in front of the building. Sugaring is now underway as long as the weather cooperates. Join us March 5th to enjoy the fruits of our labor and learn a little bit about the history and process of maple sugaring.

Our new preschool series, "Nature Nuts" began January 29th with

teacher/naturalist Cathryn Harjung talking about animals in winter. The next in this series will be Doris Andersen introducing her revised booklet titled "A Walk in the Woods with your Child" June 4th and 7th. Call for more information on these new programs for young children.

Outdoor classes begin March 15th with our soil program sponsored by the Cecil Soil Conservation District. The techni-

cal and financial support of the District is vital to us in our efforts to teach county fourth graders about the power of water to shape the land.

Save March 19th for our Spring Trail Day. It will be great to get outside and get active preparing our trails for the 4,000 or so children scheduled to visit this spring. The big project for the day will be repair-

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Conference ideas validate, enrich FHNEC programs

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Four nature center teachers recently attended the Maryland Association Outdoor Educators Conference in Ocean City, Md., where they networked with educators from school systems, nature centers, and environmental foundations statewide.

Keynote speaker Robert Michael Pyle “affirmed our mission - to promote environmental stewardship through education - and our method - to teach local children and their families about the natural world right here in Cecil County,” said teacher Janet Fallon. Pyle encouraged backyard naturalists by saying “that which helps us cherish our natural world brings us one step closer to saving it.”

The teachers attended several workshops at the conference. Topics included “The State of the Chesapeake Oyster”, Native Plants, Ospreys of the Chesapeake, Cycling and Recycling, Maple Sugaring, Preschool Ideas to Go, Stream Ecology, Watersheds, Wildlife Photography, Planning Herpetology and Bird Festivals, and Monarch Migration, to name a few.

“Nature Nuts” instructor, Cathryn Harjung, particularly enjoyed the preschool workshop and the “make and take” activities. She came away with a CD of preschool programs and several crafts to try out back at the Nature Center. “These workshops were an invaluable resource for me, validating the pro-

“These workshops were an invaluable resource for me, validating the programs I offer to preschoolers.”

Cathryn Harjung
Teacher/Naturalist

grams I offer to preschoolers, and providing enrichment for future programs,” she said.

The teachers gained many new ideas for summer camp and family programs, while making new contacts and cementing relationships with old ones. Fallon would like to use knowledge gleaned from the seminars to sponsor a “Herp Search” or birding weekend at Fair Hill.

A high point of this year’s conference, though, was attending a workshop presented by Andrew Stuhl, a former Fair Hill Nature Center winter intern. Since getting his start in environmental education in our “Winter’s Tail” program, Andy has graduated from Salisbury University and is now an environmental educator for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The conference was a great success, “I always return from the conference reenergized. Sometimes I get new ideas and other times a new slant on an old idea, but its always fun to interact with our colleagues from across the state,” explained Nature Center Education Director Holly Hannum.

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Fair Hill Nature Center
630 Tawes Rd.
Elkton, MD 21921

Bulk Rate Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage Paid Elkton, MD 21921 Permit # 15

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ing erosion damage caused by heavy rains last fall. Pickup trucks, wheelbarrows and strong backs are needed to replace gravel on a washed out section of trail. Afterwards, a well-deserved lunch of grilled hotdogs and home baked goodies. Let us know if you can help.

Home School Day is June 1st with a rain date of June 8th. Water is the theme as students 8- to 12- years study Aquatics and the 5- and 6-year olds participate in “Who Lives in the Water?” Preschoolers will have a special program with Miss Cathryn. Classes will run 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., and will cost \$5 per student. Advance registration is required.

Summer camp brochures are now ready and can be found as an insert to this edition of Habitats. You can also get copies at the Bluebirds and Maple sugaring programs March 5th. Last year’s new camp, “Native American Adventures” will add a Thursday afternoon field trip this year, while “Nature Wizards” returns just in time for the release of the latest Harry Potter book. Check out the schedule to see what else is new and be sure to sign up early to get your first choice of camps.

Also, stop by to visit the baby snakes who are thriving along with their surprising parents, the snake formerly known as Uncle Bob and Cornelius.