

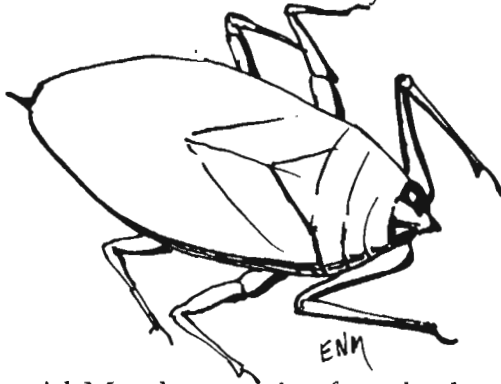


habitats

Terror of the Toadpoles Found in Nature Center Marsh

by Erlene Michener, Education Naturalist

The fourth grade "scientists" were back at Fair Hill this spring investigating the marsh during their program, "The Secret Inhabitants of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed." One of the groups found a giant water bug in the marsh (a.k.a. "Rambo"). This dude was awesome! Rambo was over two inches long and had mouth parts that certainly indicated he was a predator. Giant water bugs eat other insects, toadpoles and frogpoles, salamanders and even small fish. If you are walking by the marsh this summer in your bare feet, be careful—Rambo could bite your toe!



By mid-May hundreds of toadpoles which had hatched from eggs laid by American toads reached the final stages of metamorphosis and were rapidly turning into toadlets, leaving the water and hopping all over the edge of the marsh. In a few weeks they will all be gone, having migrated into the forest. The larger, greener tadpoles of various species of frogs are developing at a slower pace, and are still fair game for Rambo! *more, pg. 3*

Annual Meeting set for June 26

If you are a new member or just want to learn more about the Nature Center, join us for our annual meeting on June 26. Beginning at 2 p.m. with refreshments and baked goods, the meeting will update all on the state of the Nature Center and its future plans, and will include the election of new Board members. Activities for children will be conducted by staff so parents may attend the meeting. Afterwards, join Education naturalists on an easy hike to explore some of the habitats investigated by school students during field trips. The Board of Directors welcomes your input and participation at this important meeting. Please plan on attending!



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Fair Hill Nature & Environmental Center's 1994 SUMMER CAMP

All camps take place from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M.

WEEK #1.....June 27th - July 1

Nature Craft Camp Ages 7-12
Create nature crafts. Hike & play games.

Hiking Camp Ages 8-12
Hike through the fields & woods of Fair Hill. Hike to Pa..!

WEEK #2.....July 4th - July 8

Summer Critters Ages 5-7
Be an explorer, a butterfly, an Indian, & a rock "hound" all in one week!

Water Works Ages 8-12
Get wet!-as you investigate water & how animals live in it & people use it.

WEEK #3.....July 11-15

Young Naturalist Camp Ages 8-12
Investigate Fair Hill habitats through outdoor activities, games & hiking.

WEEK #4.....July 18-22

Summer Critters Ages 5-7
Same program as week #2.
Jr. Ranger-Hiking Camp Ages 8-10
Hike & complete the Junior Ranger Program
*additional \$5.00 fee for patch (optional)

FEES.....members-\$40 non-members-\$45
Full payment 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.

Make checks payable to Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc. & mail to 630 Tawes Dr., Elkton, MD 21921.
(410)-398-4909

<p>I'd like to: <input type="checkbox"/> be a member <input type="checkbox"/> renew my membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 family <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 nonprofit group</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Date _____</p> <p>Your membership contribution is tax deductible.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Camp Application Form</p> <p>Enclosed is \$ _____ for program fees.</p> <p>Camper's name(s) _____ Age _____</p> <p>Parent's name _____</p> <p>Address(include zip) _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Phone _____</p> <p>Program name/date _____</p> <p><i>MEDICAL-Please indicate any important info. about medications, allergies, physical disabilities/restrictions, etc. that instructors may need to know</i></p> <p>_____</p>
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SUMMER PROGRAMS



AT

FAIRHILL NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

From nature photography to nighttime owl prowls—there's something for everyone this summer at the Nature Center! There is limited enrollment for these programs, so be sure to register early! If you register for a program but cannot attend, please contact Karen Aspinwall at the number below so that we may fill your space with a name on the waiting list.

REGISTRATION

Advance registration is required for all programs. Call **Karen Aspinwall, Program Coordinator**, at **398-4909** before the specified registration deadline to insure a space; and please contact her if your plans change and you can no longer attend.

CANCELLATION

Outdoor programs may be canceled because of inclement weather. In marginal weather, verification may be made by calling 398-4909 one hour before the scheduled program time. If minimum registration is not met, those who have registered will be notified.

FEES

Members are entitled to a discounted program fee for all programs, and several free programs throughout the year. To take advantage of these opportunities, become a member! Ask for a membership form when you register for programs. Program fees are listed under the descriptions below.

LOCATION

Unless otherwise indicated, all programs begin at the Nature Center. Please arrive on time!

JUNE ☼

SUN. 26

ANNUAL MEETING 2 P.M.

You don't have to register for this event, but we encourage your participation. See page one for details!

JULY ☼

SAT. 9

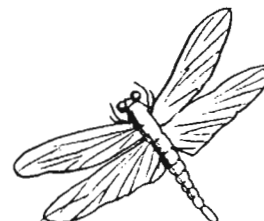
WORKSHOP FOR SHUTTERBUGS 9-12 NOON

Bring your 35 mm camera and spend a morning with Photographer Bill Worthington as he teaches techniques for taking great nature photographs, using the beautiful and varied habitats around the Nature Center as subject matter. All you need is a 35 mm camera and roll of film (print or slide). A flash, tripod, and filters are optional. An informal follow-up gathering to show off and analyze your results will be arranged at this workshop.

Leader: Bill Worthington

Registration Deadline: July 6

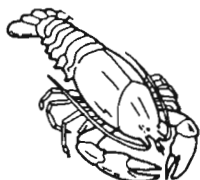
Cost: \$4.00 Members/\$6.00 Non-members



JULY ☽

SUN. 17

BLUE CRABS AND CRAWDADS 1:30-3:00 P.M.



There's more to blue crabs than lump meat! Eat what you meet as you learn about the natural history and biology of Chesapeake Bay blue crabs through a steamed crab dissection. Afterwards, take a wet walk in the creeks at Fair Hill in search of one of its freshwater cousins, the crayfish.

Leader: Karen Aspinwall

Registration Deadline: July 14

Cost: \$2.00 Members/\$4.00 Non-members



AUGUST ☽

SAT. 13

3RD ANNUAL FISH WALK 10 TO 12 NOON

Back by popular demand! Join ichthyologists Parke John and Bob Willman in our annual search for creek creatures. Stations will be set up along the Big Elk Creek where you can see different techniques used for collecting fish for scientific research. Very young naturalists can try their luck at catching and identifying *special* fish in a pond set up at the Nature Center. Refreshments will be available. Bring a picnic lunch if you wish!

Leaders: Parke John and Bob Willman

Registration Deadline: None

Cost: Members FREE/\$2.00 Non-members



SAT. 27

WHOOOO...GOES THERE? SUNSET

Join us for a night hike to prowl for owls! Doug Koop, Nature Center Board member and Vice-President of the Cecil Ornithological Society, will call in these magnificent night predators--Who knows who'll we'll meet! Wear weather-appropriate clothing and walking shoes. Binoculars and flashlights optional. Check for exact meeting time when registering.

Leader: Doug Koop

Registration Deadline: None

Cost: Members FREE/\$2.00 Non-members



Terror, cont.

Another predator of the marsh, mean ol' Roy the water snake, has also been sighted several times. He's probably looking for frogs to eat.



Without a doubt the marsh is an exciting place. You can see something different every day.

Other marsh notes: This spring two pairs of Canada geese were seen nesting and rearing their young. One pair was unsuccessful in producing viable eggs. The other pair hatched five goslings. To date, one healthy gosling remains with its parents, and we can only guess as to the fate of the others.

Students exploring the marsh have collected or spotted other newcomers, including baby painted turtles (about the size of a silver dollar) and bluegill sunfish, which have been making and protecting shallow crater-like nests along the edge of the pond. The Nature Center staff is delighted that the artificial marsh continues to evolve and provide habitat for so many species. If you haven't yet experienced it, join us on June 26 for a guided walk along the marsh edge following the Annual Meeting (see article on page 1).—*Editor*

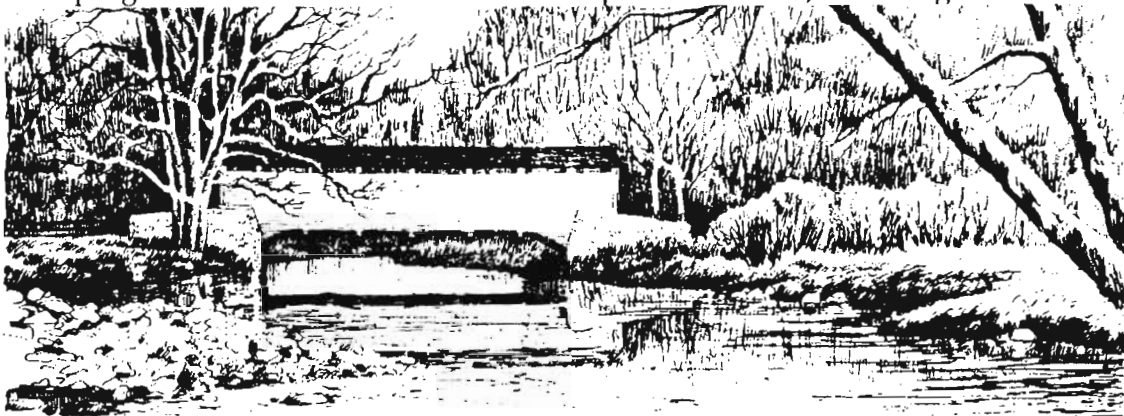
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS: PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS

In the last issue of *habitats*, readers were asked to respond to a survey concerning member programs offerings. Thanks to all who sent the form in! The results indicate that there is varied interest in the kinds of programs members would like offered, as was expected.

A surprise came when reviewing the weekend days and times members would most prefer programs offered. Saturday mornings and afternoons were about equal, and Sunday afternoons were just as popular. In an effort to be flexible with program offerings while still working on a tight budget, we will try to offer the kinds of programs you want to attend, at more times that don't conflict with busy schedules, including evening programs.

For those of you who did not get a chance to respond to the survey—it's not too late! Simply write a note describing what you would be interested in attending and what weekend hours are best for you to make a trip to the Nature Center. Send to Karen Aspinwall, Fair Hill Nature Center, 630 Tawes Drive, Elkton, MD 21921. Thank you!

Summer programs are listed in this newsletter. Spread the word, and bring a friend!



habitats community

Generous financial support from the following individuals and organizations in 1994 has been instrumental in the continued success of the Nature Center. A grateful thanks to all from the staff and Board of Directors.

**Chesapeake Bay Trust
Laurel and Kevin Jones
Knapp Educational Foundation
New York Community Trust
Waterfowl Festival, Inc.
Women's College Club of Cecil Cty.
David and Sally Young
Zeneca**

A special thanks also to those who have donated time, energy and materials to the Nature Center:

Ed Walls, Manager of Fair Hill NRMA, and his staff, for road improvements, ground maintenance, and responding to our occasional calls for help!

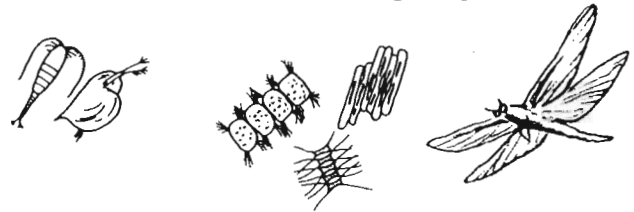
Office Volunteers **Suzanne Delano Dunn, Katy Fitzgerald, Audrey, and Diane Thompson**

Members Program Instructors **Charlie Gant, Jerry Newman, Parke John, Bob Willmann, Seth McCauley**

And of course, a hearty thank you to all of our members, who support the Center through annual membership dues!

Good Going Gabe!

The Nature Center staff sends three cheers to 11 year old Gabe Nelson of Newark, Delaware. A 1993 summer camper at the Center, Gabe became interested in water quality testing. After receiving training in testing techniques from The Delaware Nature Society and materials from the Nature Center, Gabe began a three month long school project studying the water quality of the Christina Creek, which flows right through his backyard. As a result of his investigations, this spring Gabe won 1st prize at the Bayard Elementary School in the Christina School District in Delaware. Good going Gabe!



*Don't forget the annual meeting
coming up on June 26.
See page 1 for details!*

Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc.

630 Tawes Drive, Elkton, MD 21921

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