



# Habitats

Fall 1997

Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc.

Vol. 8 No. 3

## Message from the President

It is my pleasure to welcome five new board members to the Fair Hill Environmental Foundation: Rose Greer, science teacher at North East Middle School; Ronald Hamlen, Du Pont Corporation, Bill Lucas, Thiokol Corporation, Helena Schulz, retired businesswoman and long-time volunteer of various organizations, and Bob Willmann, W. L. Gore and Associates. These volunteers bring to the Board a variety of experience and expertise, as well as a wealth of enthusiasm and energy. Welcome!

Part of the responsibilities of board members include chairing or co-chairing committees. Foundation committees include Building, Marsh, Grounds and Trails, and Special Events. As board members begin to organize committee work for the next year, they will be looking for people with the talent and time to help accomplish committee goals. You can have an active part in helping the Nature Center by joining a committee, or participating in a committee event. If you are interested, please call Karen Aspinwall, Director of the Nature Center, for more information.  
*--Jim Campbell, President*

## Waterfowl Festival, Inc. Grant Awarded

The Waterfowl Festival, Inc., has once again awarded the Nature Center \$5,000 to help teach students about wetlands. Over 1,000 Cecil County students will participate in programs which include a visit to our artificial marsh. Students learn how wetlands provide many kinds of life, including waterfowl, with food, shelter, and nesting materials.

The Nature Center greatly appreciates the support that the Waterfowl Festival has given to Fair Hill Nature Center. Grants awarded by the Waterfowl Festival in the past have helped us to build, plant, maintain, and improve the marsh, as well as educate students.

## Membership Drive Begins this Fall

October marks the Fair Hill Nature Center's first membership drive. The Membership Committee, co-chaired by Bob Carroll and Helena Schulz, is organizing a mailing campaign which will reach over 2,000 people in our region. Our goal is to double the Center's membership by the end of the year. And to do that we need your help.

Though located on state land, Fair Hill Nature Center is NOT supported by taxes or other public funds. Contributions by our members in the form of dues are an important source of revenue. Membership dues help us to operate our outdoor school and provide quality environmental education programming to over 8,000 students who visit the center annually. This includes almost every Cecil County elementary student, as well as many private and out-of-county schools. The center also serves as a resource to teachers and citizens.

Fair Hill Nature Center is the only nature center in Cecil County. We have worked hard to  
*Campaign, page 6*

*inside* 

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## Board of Directors

**Jim Campbell**  
*President*

**Jerry Hendricks**  
*Vice President*

**Keith Phillips**  
*Secretary*

**Ted Bartow**  
*Treasurer*

**Robert B. Carroll**

**Dennis Clower**

**Rose Greer**

**Ronald Hamlen**

**William Ide**

**Larry Klevans**

**William Lucas**

**Jerry Newman**

**Helena Schulz**

**Robert Willmann**

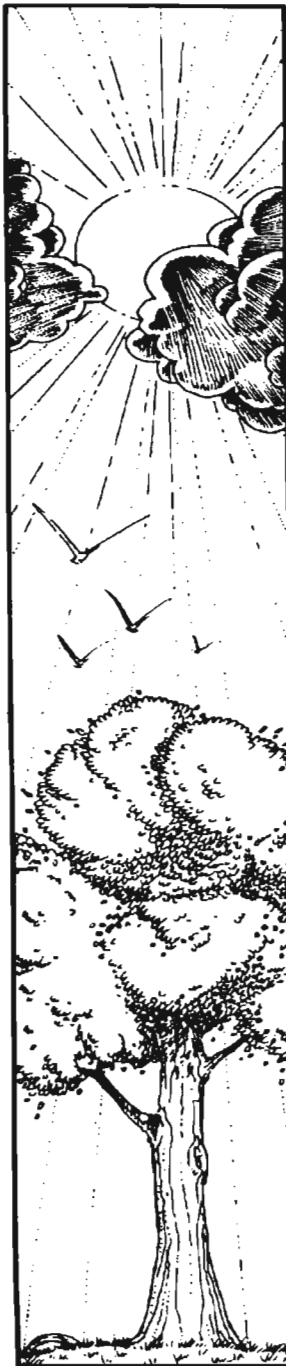
## Staff

*Director, Nature Center*  
**Karen Aspinwall**

*Education Director*  
**Holly Hannum**

*Teacher-Naturalists*  
**Doris Andersen**  
**Janet Fallon**  
**Erlene Michener**  
**Lisa Wilkens**

*Administrative Assistant*  
**Sue Rogers**



## WISH LIST

We are in need of the following:

**weed whacker**  
**lawn mower**  
**vacuum cleaner**  
**video camera**

Please contact the Nature Center  
at 398-4909 if you can donate any of these items.  
We'll gladly pick them up!

The Board of Directors of the  
Fair Hill Environmental Foundation  
meets on the second Wednesday of the month  
from 7 to 9 p.m.  
Members of the Nature Center and the general  
public are welcome to attend meetings.  
The fall schedule is as follows.

### Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

October 8, 7 p.m., Nature Center  
November 12, 7 p.m., Nature Center  
December 10, 7 p.m., Elkton Library

*We're looking for new members! We appreciate the support you have given to us in the past. Help expand our membership by sharing this newsletter with a friend, and inviting someone to visit the Center or attend one of our upcoming special events.*

I'd like to:

- become a member of the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center  
 renew my membership:  \$20 Individual  \$25 Family  \$50 Business

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make check  
payable to: Fair Hill  
Environmental  
Foundation, Inc.  
Mail to: 630 Tawes  
Drive, Elkton, MD  
21921

Your membership is tax deductible.

# Fair Hill Nature Center

## Fall Special Events

Sun.

Oct.5

12- 2  
pm

### Scales and Tails/Hayride

In celebration of Maryland State Parks Week (September 4-11) the staff from the Department of Natural Resources office at Fair Hill will be conducting this special program at the Boy Scout Pavillion down by Big Elk Creek.

*This is not a Nature Center Event.*

*For more information call (410) 398-1234.*

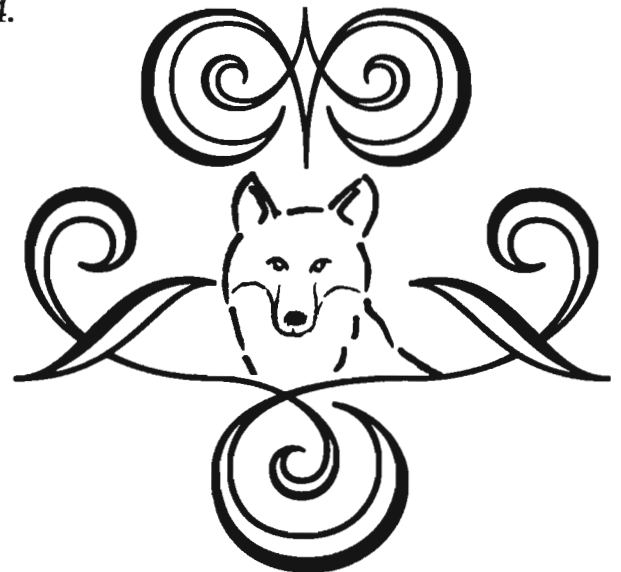
Saturday

Oct.11

10-4 pm

### Trail Day

Join DNR and Nature Center staff to clear trails, repair bridges, and complete other fall projects. Meet at the Nature Center at 10 a.m. Bring a bag lunch—we'll supply drinks and snacks. Call (410) 398-4909 for more information.



Friday

Oct.17

7 pm

### Starry Starry Night

Hike through the heavens with Lora Chamblee, astronomy teacher at North East High School, to find and learn about the constellations visible in our night skies. After the program, look through telescopes to get a close view of planets and star clusters. Then warm up with a hot drink around a bonfire. Bring a sleeping bag to lie on and a flashlight with fresh batteries.

*Telephone Registration required. Call (410) 398-4909.*

*Members \$1.00/Non-members \$2.00*

**Rain Date: October 24**

Sat./Sun.

October  
25/26 &  
Nov.1/2

1-4 pm

### Open House Weekends

As part of our membership campaign (see article on page 1), we are pleased to have the Nature Center open from 1-4 p.m. on these weekends. Drop by to pick up a self-guided trail brochure which will lead you through the du Pont hunting lodge and out onto Nature Center trails. The Nature Center gift store will be open and a staff member will be available to answer questions about the Center and its operations.

*No registration fee required.*

# Tails Out of School

## Nature School Update



### Nature Camp Theater Program is a Natural Success

Almost 275 campers from age 5 through 12 participated in five week-long half-day summer camps this year. New to the program was a theater camp which combined natural science and dramatics. Taught by Ruth Young, now a challenge teacher for North East Middle School, youngsters learned about the Chesapeake Bay as they built scenery, made costumes and practiced their parts for the play entitled, "Camping on the Chesapeake Bay." After only five days and twelve hours of preparation, the campers performed a 45 minute play for parents and fellow campers in our outdoor hemlock amphitheater.

For years Ruth Young has combined her talent for teaching with her flair for acting in the classroom. Last year she won the Classroom Marine Educator of the Year award from the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association for another play she wrote and performed with her students at Elk Neck Elementary School. We are pleased that Ruth will be back next summer to teach another science/theater camp.

### New Outreach Program Ready for the Road

The Nature Center is now taking reservations for its new outreach program for kindergarten and first grade students. This January and February, educators can bring nature to snowbound students with a program that combines science, theater, and discovery activities.

The program starts with an interactive mini-play in which Mother Nature visits Bernatious

Aloyisus turtle and his forest friends while turning fall into winter. The animals must decide how best to survive the winter months. All but Bernate seem to know what to do by instinct. By the happy ending the turtle and the students have learned some of the different adaptations animals have for coping with the cold.

Following the play, students travel to different stations where they meet a live animal, feel and identify bifacts in a six person touch box, put together a four by eight foot habitat puzzle, and place animals in their correct habitat in a stamping activity.

"A Winter's Tail" was developed in part by a grant from Wal-Mart, Inc. The Nature Center has recently received another grant by the Cecil County Arts Council to offset the program fee for the first 500 Cecil County students who are registered. If you would like your kindergarten or first grade child to participate, please share this newsletter with his/her teacher.

### A Winter's Tail

**Dates:** January and February

**Program Length:** 1.5 hours

**Program Fee:** Call (410) 398-4909

**Maximum Group Size:** 30 children or one class

**Telephone registration required.**

Call (410) 398-4909 Monday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm to register.



# Habitats Community

The Nature Center staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for their financial support in 1997. Their donations have substantially contributed to the success of the Nature Center and Foundation activities. Thank you!

Boy Scout Troop #443  
Cecil County Arts Council, Inc.  
Country Thyme Garden Club  
Miss Patsy duPont  
Sue Fuhrmann and Ron Hamlen  
North East Middle School Builder's Club  
Rotary Club of North East  
Thiokol Corporation  
Waterfowl Festival, Inc.  
Ed Walls

Thank you also to the following for their in-kind donations to the Nature Center:

Bill Bowen, for his help with our trail system;  
Corrine Litzenberg, for the donation of her book, *Gertrude's Gift*;  
Nitz Tree Service, for donation of mulch;  
Ed Walls, Manager of FHNRMMA, and his staff, for grounds maintenance, new school signs, and other support.

And a special "Thank you" to our Summer Camp Volunteer Counselors: Anna Jones, Jen Leitgeb, and Bill Teodecki

Welcome to New Members!

James and Jennifer Adkins  
Gordon Caswell  
Thomas and Sheila Cuccia  
Michael and Sarah Goswell  
Chuck Haegel  
Robert and Andrea Halman  
Thomas and Mary Kemp  
William and Kathleen Lucas  
Victor and Elaine Maggioli  
Joe and Patti Paulus  
John and Lea Reynolds  
Karen Reynolds  
Helena A. Schulz  
John and Marilyn Stauffer  
Susan Teodecki  
John and Mary Jo Williams  
David and Elizabeth Zug



## What's Happening ...

### at Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area?

The following events are scheduled through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office located at Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. Please call 398-1246 for more information about specific events.

#### October

3-5 Bill Mills Trail Ride  
11-12 Queen Anne's Cty 4H Pony Express Club  
12 Red Rose Horse & Pony Club Drive  
18 FHEE Performanace test (tentative)  
18-19 Tri-Athlantic Triathalon Assoc. Biathalon  
19 Fair Hill Pony Club Scavenger Hunt  
19 Rain Date: 4H Shooters on Horseback (tentative)

20-27 Fair Hill International (Act. Date 10/23-26)  
24-26 Fair Hill International Driving Competition  
29 Visitor's Center Dedication

#### November

1-2 FHEE Starter Horse Trials (tentative)  
2 Habitat for Humanity Walk-a-thon

*Campaign, cont.*

maintain Fair Hill in its natural state of great beauty.

In conjunction with the membership drive, we are offering two Open House weekends during which members and anyone interested in the Nature Center can visit, tour the du Pont hunting lodge which serves as our headquarters, and take a self-guided trail around the property during one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Here's how you can join in this important effort. Bring a friend to the Center on one of the upcoming Open House weekends (see Fall Events schedule for dates) and encourage him to join. Consider giving a gift membership to a friend or relative. If you have let your membership lapse recently, please renew it now.

Thank you for being a supporter of the Fair Hill Nature Center. We appreciate whatever you can do to help us reach our membership goal for this year!



## Cecil County Arts Council Awards Grant

The Nature Center has recently received a \$500 grant from the Cecil County Arts Council, Inc. in support of the Center's new Outreach program (see article on page 4). Education staff will visit kindergarten and first grade classrooms to present a hands-on program which combines science, theater and discovery activities. The funds from the grant will be used to help offset program costs to Cecil County students who participate in the program this January and February. A hearty thank you to the CC Arts Council for its generous contribution to the Nature Center!

### Fair Hill Nature Center Scientific Terms

(not to be found in Webster's Dictionary):

**Toadpole:** immature toad; **Frogpole:** immature

**Toadlet:** tiny toad frog

**Toadally alert:** State

of heightened awareness to avoid stepping on toadlets



**Winston:** the biggest bullfrog in the marsh



*Habitats* is published for members of the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center, a non-profit organization devoted to the study and enjoyment of nature, and the conservation of natural habitats within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

To join, mail in the form on page 2 of this newsletter.

**Fair Hill Environmental Foundation, Inc.**

630 Tawes Dr.

Elkton, MD 21921

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