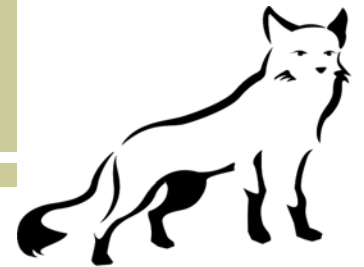


HABITATS



FAIR HILL
NATURE CENTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Fox Chase Secrets</i>	2
<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>United Way Donation</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

New Board Members

See Page 3 for introductions to:

- Josh Brown
- Mario Gangemi
- Hinda Smith
- Dan Speakman

TAILS OUT OF SCHOOL

Where could you ride on a Skipjack, send a secret message by homing pigeon, bike to a beaver dam, race a homemade boat, make your own sweep net, or camp out overnight? The answer is Fair Hill Nature Center summer camp.

Week One of camp began with an expanded version of "The Chesapeake Bay Starts Here". Campers traveled to the headwaters of the Big Elk in nearby Pennsylvania and followed it down to where it flows into the Elk River below Elkton. We observed different land uses along the river and toured the Elkton Drinking Water Treatment Facility and the Elkton Wastewater Treatment Facility located along its banks. The latter earned both "best activity" of the day or "least liked activity", but all agreed it was stinky! This camp was partially funded by a grant from the

Chesapeake Bay Trust. The trust receives support through donations via the tax check off on the Maryland State Income Tax form, sales of the "Treasure the Chesapeake" commemorative Bay license plate, private donations, memorial gifts and support from the business community.

In Week Two, Wilderness Adventure campers assembled an emergency kit, practiced filtering drinking water, and set up our own tents at the McCloskey site. We enjoyed hotdogs, marshmallows and games before settling in for the night. Even a summer evening thunderstorm never dampened our spirits.

A new offering this year, "Nature Wizards", explored the real magic in nature with a Harry Potter theme. Dr. Don Fieldhouse taught us about carnivorous plants, and we mixed up potions of slime and giant

bubbles. A special thanks to Bob Lydum of Agilent Technologies for supplying us with owl pellet dissection kits.

Everyone beat the heat by wading into the stream to explore it's inhabitants. This was listed on camp evaluations as a highlight each week along with making T-shirts and "anything with snakes".

Parents said that they most appreciated the educational hands-on activities that maintained their child's enthusiasm. They also gave us some great suggestions for next year. Thanks to all who responded with ideas.

Staff enjoyed a brief vacation period before gearing up for the opening of school. Fifth graders began visits to the Nature Center on September 12.

CAMP 'HAPPENS' WITH VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the many helpers who worked tirelessly with the teachers during camp. If not for you—camp wouldn't 'happen'!

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Elise Bader | Bob Fallon | Anthony Middleton |
| Amy Barczewski | Doug Fallon | John Milburn |
| Richard Barczewski | Don Fieldhouse | Beth Nagle |
| Thomas Barczewski | Tom Hannum | Katia Quesenberry |
| Kelly Benson | Kristen Ham | Afton Shekiro |
| Sarah Bunk | Terry Ham | Jean Webb |
| Alice Connair | Alex Ladysh | Sarah Wright |
| Roger Dalecki | Claire MacDonald | |
| Jeanne Devine | Avalon Mehta | |
| Jason Eirhart | Steve Michener | |

FOX CHASE SECRETS

The excitement of “Fox Chasing at Fair Hill” will be presented on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. Erlene Michner will explain the history and tradition of fox chasing at Fair Hill. Fair Hill was William du Pont's private hunting ground and Erlene has had the privilege of hunting here since the 60's.



DECALS

Our membership chair, Bob Carroll has started a new tradition at Fair Hill Nature Center. All current members are receiving the enclosed nifty window decal (no stickem' type). All new members will receive this decal in their new membership packet.

Additional stickers may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the center with your donation (you determine the amount). We will gladly send you more stickers for other family vehicles, your window on your business, or your window or door at your home.

It is important that you understand the directions for attaching your decal to a window. Because there is no glue involved, the decal attaches with static. It is imperative that you prepare your window surface adequately, or your decal won't adhere.

1. Clean surface thoroughly with alcohol or clear ammonia.
2. Dry surface with a clean cloth.
3. Attach decal to window surface just cleaned and enjoy.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to support the Fair Hill Nature Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We've been growing in numbers thanks to the work of Taffy Straughn—a teacher at the Nature Center.

We are registered on a couple different web sites where volunteers can sign up to do different chores for us. I'm surprised at the volume of “hits” on the volunteer websites!

But, if you've missed the volunteer websites, there's no reason

for you to miss the opportunity. Some of the things we need help with are:

- Trail maintenance
- Refreshments for programs
- Help with bulk mailings
- Flowerbed maintenance
- Help with summer camps

We have the tools and materials

you need, we only need for you to come! If you want to just stop by and do some work on your own, the tools are located in the back door of the Nature Center!

Contact Taffy at the Nature Center during school/camp hours—8:30 to 3:00.

410-398-4909

if you've missed the volunteer websites, there's no reason for you to miss the opportunity. . .

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dan Schneckenburger, President, Board of Directors

Welcome from our entire Board of Directors and Staff to the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center. Most of this year has seen a large transition in our Board of Directors with new inductees

replacing some veteran stalwarts. Many thanks have to go to Jerry Hendricks, Jerry Newman, Ralph Young, Suzan Doordan, and Joanne Dawson for their valuable contributions over the years. In fact, they are still very involved in many parts of our organization. The love of

our environmental mission and the beautiful Fair Hill area becomes a part of you.

With this transition, we have dedicated the Center to expansion of member benefits, continued quality environmental educational programs, and growing our foundation. Our programs committee, headed by

Barb Snyder, has expanded our member's activities by threefold this year with two (week night and Saturday) programs per month. The Nature School runs programs from kindergarten through sixth grade and several types of well attended summer camps.

(Continued on page 3)

It's United Way Donation Time Again

Remember, when you sign up for your contribution this year, choose Fair Hill Nature Center!

In Cecil County, there is a box to check on your sign-up form and an amount to designate.

In Delaware, you may write in your choice: #5906 – Fair Hill Nature Center.

In the past, the contributions we've received from

United Way have helped us fund student fees at the center. As with many organizations, our fees do not match our budget needs and consequently, we're constantly on the look-out for additional resources. We try to fund our public school programs fully so that no student has to pay. Your contributions help us do that

Remember: Check Fair Hill Nature Center in Maryland, or choose #5906 in Delaware.



Board of Directors
Dan Schneckenburger,
President

Mario Gangemi,
Vice President

Larry Klevans,
Treasurer

Rick Waterhouse,
Secretary

Josh Brown

James M. Campbell, Jr.

Robert Carroll

Dennis Clower

Charles Dolor

Douglas Hill

Phyllis Kilby

William Lucas

Nancy Simperts

Hinda Smith

Barbara Snyder

Dan Speakman

Rebecca Taccone

Honorary Members

Patricia du Pont

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest

Ronald Guns

George Prettyman

Del. David Rudolph

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Four new board members were asked to join the Fair Hill Environmental Foundation and they accepted the challenge.

Josh Brown, candidate for County Commissioner and Marketing Director of American Home and Hardware brings his expertise to the center.

Mario Gangemi, Duffield Associates, was a former member who moved away and moved back and has rejoined us and taken the job of Vice President.

Hinda Smith, Vice Principal of Gilpin Manor Elementary brings her school knowledge and skills to us.

Dan Speakman, of McCrone,

Inc. will lend his hand with our computers and carpentry! **Rick Waterhouse** takes over the job of secretary for the board and is doing a fine job.



(Continued from page 2)
With a successful Spring-fest!, we are continually looking for ways to grow our foundation and provide for expanded quality programs of all types.

But our long term success resides with a growing and active membership. By growing and maintaining our membership, the Nature Center is

providing stability in all facets of our operation. The active part is where you come in. Participate in our events, volunteer time at the Center, let us know how you feel, and spread the preservation message to all. Membership recruitment and satisfaction is among the highest priority with our Board of Directors.

So as the new president, I invite you to visit the Center often and get involved. You may find it becomes a part of you too.

Sincerley,

Dan Schneckenburger

Fair Hill Nature Center

630 Tawes Drive
Elkton, MD 21921

Phone: 410-398-4909
Fax: 410-398-3749
Email: fairhillnature@dol.net

We're on the Web
FairHillNature.org

Fairhillnature@dol.net



The Bridge is Finished!

Finally, the damages to the bridge over the Big Elk from Hurricane Floyd have been repaired. You can now travel from Appleton Road, down Black Bridge Road to the Nature Center.

Waterfowl Festival Grant

The Nature Center is the proud recipient of a grant from the Waterfowl Festival. Holly Hannum accepted a check for \$5,000 at a luncheon in Easton, MD on July 31.

BULK RATE
NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
ELKTON, MD 21921
PERMIT NO. 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Dates to Remember:

- **Fox Chasing at Fair Hill – Sept 18, 7:00, Veteran fox chaser Erlene Michner will explain the history and tradition of fox chasing at Fair Hill.**
- **Fall Home School Day - October 16, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Program fee: \$5.00 See enclosed flyer for details**
- **Local Color Walk - Oct 19 – 2:00 p.m. with Holly Hannum,**
- **Hayride - Oct 19 - 4:00 p.m.**
- **Starry, Starry Night, Nov. 13, 7:00 with Linda Tinsman—rain or shine.**
- **Wreath Craft –Nov. 16 10:00, Katherine Straughan and Pat Holleran. Create a wreath with natural (and other) materials.**
- **Santa Hayride – Dec. 7 – rain date of Dec. 8. Come ride the wagon to see Santa at Nature Center, make birdfeeders, crafts.**

All programs free for members, \$3.00 for non members unless noted.