



Fall Newsletter 2017

Upcoming Events



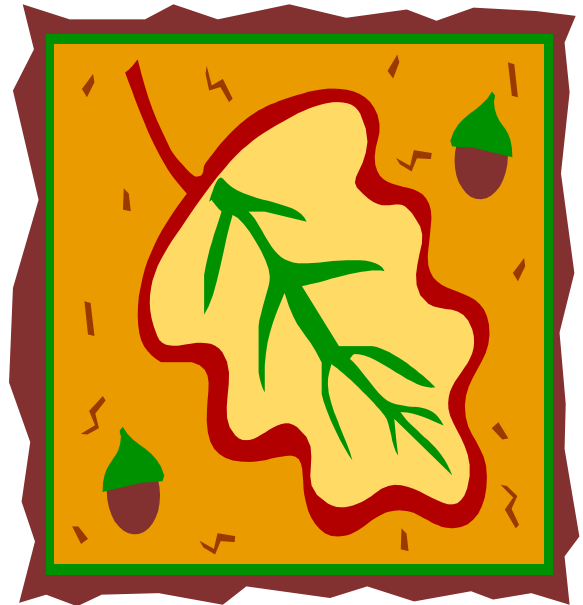
Save the Date:

December 6 - FOBHNP Meeting at 10:00 am in the Visitor Center.

January 15 - Family Day from 1:00 - 4:00 pm in the Visitor Center.

January 23 - Maintenance Luncheon from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Maintenance Building.

February 11 - Waterfowl Festival from 12:00 - 4:00 pm in the Visitor Center.



How Funds Are Spent

Our major fund-raising effort is the Annual Native Plant Sale held each Spring. With the proceeds of that sale, we support multiple nature programs throughout the year.

We recently purchased a YSI environmental temperature probe which allows the Naturalists to take the lake

temperature up to 10 meters. The Naturalists will be using this thermometer for lake studies with students who will be charting and collecting data on the thermocline. In February, we will support the attendance of two Teacher

Naturalists, Stacy Flynn and Laura Quintanilla, at the Maryland Association for Environment and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) to be held in Ocean City.

We also purchased greenhouse supplies and plants.

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Monarch Fiesta Day—September 16

Monarch Fiesta Day was a huge success. A big “Thank You” to Wegman’s for providing a food truck that served delicious tacos to the volunteers who worked during the festival, and to paying customers. We also want to thank the volunteers who donated baked goods for our bake sale. We raised \$215 in the sale of cookies, brownies and cupcakes and sold out an hour before the event ended.



Solar Eclipse Day—August 21



We had a record number of people who participated in the Solar Eclipse Day event. We had beautiful weather which enhanced the viewing opportunity. Due to the popularity of the event, we ran out of glasses and had to close the park early. (Picture of the sun is courtesy of the Internet).



Visitor Center Gardens

We have received lots of positive comments on the beauty of the gardens located around the Visitor Center. We had a great group of volunteer gardeners this year who have now prepared the gardens for winter.

The pre-schoolers recently planted tulip bulbs to bloom in the spring.

The maintenance crew found a couple of huge logs which they are in the process of hollowing out so the children can use them as play tunnels near where the teepee once stood.



Greenhouse Gang

On February 6, 2018, we will plant seeds for cold stratification and on March 6, we will resume work in the Greenhouse, assuming the snow isn't too deep!

Nearly 2,000 plugs, roots and cuttings have been planted for next season.

We are caring for the plants over the winter and will cover them when the temperature drops below 20 degrees.

The Annual Native Plant Sale will be held from April 26-29.

The sale hours will be announced at a later date.

Brochures will be available for volunteers to distribute throughout Montgomery County.

Volunteers will also be invited to sign up to assist with the sale.



Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner and Auction

We had a successful annual meeting. The dishes the staff and volunteers prepared were delicious. The setting was inviting with harvest themed table decorations and a faux fire displayed on the smartboard.

The auction items included locally sourced wine, a Chesapeake Bay themed basket of goodies, a squirrel-proof birdfeeder, a shatter-proof pot full of spring bulbs, a backpack stocked with a thermos and mugs for an outdoor picnic, signed prints from local artists, and homemade jam, jelly, butter, salsa and vegetables which are always a hit and were beautifully displayed.

Thanks to our auctioneer, Tim Gier, we raised \$849 in auction sales.



Eagle Scout Projects and Volunteer Awards



We supported two Eagle Scout projects which have been vital to keeping things organized.

Thomas Wrona built a storage shelving unit to support materials used by the children to play in the fairy garden and sandbox.

Spencer Reagan built birdhouse boxes for the Eastern bluebirds that nest in our beautiful habitat.

At our annual meeting, Nature Facility and Nature Program Manager, Jennifer Scully, presented Caleigh Mason and A.J. Beaulieu with the President's Award for Volunteer Service for achieving 100 hours of service volunteering at the park.

We would like to thank these young leaders for their help in making the Nature Programs a success.



FRIENDS OF BLACK HILL NATURE PROGRAMS

The Board Members:

Sheila MacLeod, *President*
Claudia Golenda, *Vice-President*
Mary McKnight, *Treasurer*
Karen Plá, *Secretary*
Barb Krelley, *Membership*
Tina Soule, *Member*

Formed in April 2001, the *Friends* support, promote, and sustain the nature programs and special events conducted by the interpretative naturalist staff at the Black Hill Visitor Center.



SEED Project

The Sustainable Education Every Day (SEED) project is a revitalization of an existing, abandoned maintenance yard to meet the needs of a growing community in the Clarksburg area surrounding Black Hill Regional Park and the Black Hill Nature Programs (BHNP).

The SEED Classroom has a lot of efficient features and can meet the criteria of the *Living Building Challenge*, making it one of the greenest buildings on earth.

The most powerful part is the learning opportunities for students that have been incorporated into the building.

In 2016, 2,689 students received environmental education at the Black Hill Visitor Center.

As leaders in environmental education and sustainable planning, BHNP and Montgomery Parks and Planning should lead, educate, and inspire by example.

Preliminary site design began in the summer of 2017. Phase 1 is expected to be complete in 2019.

The Nature Program has received an increase in participation in the SEED Classroom and donations continue to come in. The Parks Foundation continues to need support from public and private donors.



Photo credits: Karen Plá