



Summer Newsletter 2020

FRIENDS of the BLACK HILL NATURE PROGRAMS, Inc.

FOBHNP.com

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FOBHNP Native Plant Sale

May 1–3, 2020 - *Cancelled*

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we had no choice but to cancel the 12th Annual Native Plant Sale.

We are thankful we had such a profitable year last season, which will carry us through in sponsoring nature programming this year.

We want to offer a special “Thank You” to Anita Pustelnik who did an extraordinary job of leading our volunteers in cultivating many local and important food and shelter sources for Maryland butterflies, birds, and array of other pollinators and wildlife.

Although we were very disappointed to not be able to have the sale this Spring, we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Meanwhile, please stay healthy and look out for one another. Be kind and remain hopeful.

As you have heard, we are all in this together!



To brighten your day, we would like to highlight a Sunny Garden Native Plant - *Monarda Didyma*

Also referred to as the crimson beebalm, scarlet beebalm, scarlet monarda, Oswego tea, or bergamot, it is an aromatic herb in the family Lamiaceae, native to eastern North America from Maine west to Ontario and Minnesota, and south to northern Georgia. Its odor is considered similar to that of the bergamot orange. It grows in full and partial sun to a height of 2-5' along creek banks, floodplains and woods. It flowers from July – September, has bright red, showy and aromatic blooms and bears a nut-like fruit. It attracts a wide variety of pollinators to include hummingbirds, butterflies and ladybugs.

Scientific Name: *Monarda Didyma*

Rank: Species

Higher Classification: Beebalm



Joint Annual Environmental Film Night ~ January 18, 2020

The *Friends* were excited to support a fun night from 5:30-8:30 pm at the Visitor Center. The film “Biggest Little Farm” was viewed and discussed by students from the Poolesville Global Ecology Program.



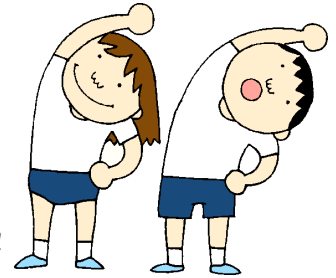
Follow Black Hill Nature Programs!

The park is open for exercise and the enjoyment of fresh air and open, green space!

Facebook: *BlackHillNature*

Web: *Montgomeryparks.org/black-hill-nature-programs*

Enjoy virtual programs to include *Parts of a Plant* and *Tree Yoga*. More online contact coming!



Wine & Waterfowl ~ February 15, 2020

The *Friends* sponsored an evening of wine and waterfowl art at the Visitor Center from 5—7 pm.

Guests were invited to enjoy snacks and have a glass of wine provided by Rockland Farms. On display were the winners of the Federal Duck Stamp contests, hand-carved decoys, and other local art that featured our feathered friends.

As the sun set, everyone enjoyed watching from the balcony, the resident waterfowl land on the lake for the evening. It was a gorgeous night!



Maintenance Staff Luncheon ~ February 19, 2020 ~

To show appreciation to our dedicated staff, the Board members prepared pasta dishes with all the trimmings and served it up to a hungry crowd.

Gardening Tips (credit: *The 30 Best Gardening Tips of All Time* by Grace Beuley Hunt)

- ⇒ Run your fingernails across a bar of soap to seal off dirt.
- ⇒ Improve soil by working in a few inches of compost or peat moss.
- ⇒ Water your plants with vegetable broth – it’s the best plant food!
- ⇒ For new plants, add a tiny bit of fertilizer to the water.
- ⇒ To discourage grasses and weeds, edge flowerbeds with rocks.
- ⇒ To keep away unwanted bugs, plant marigolds along your borders. Gnats and mosquitos hate ‘em!
- ⇒ To discourage squirrels from digging in your pots, place clay pot shards, pebbles or shells around container plants.

Reminder: Perennials need three years to mature! Plant on cloudy days. Transplant on rainy days. Water during dusk and dawn. Soak your garden once weekly. Practice patience and you’ll reap the rewards! Visit: <http://gardenprofessors.com/container-planting-intuition-vs-reality>



Family Day ~ February 17, 2020

School was out, and what better way is there to enjoy an afternoon of nature fun than to participate in Family Day!

The *Friends* welcomed kids in the Visitor Center from 1—4 pm to explore nature topics like birds, bats and, bears. Feather, fur, rock, skin, shell and other collections were available to view under microscopes, touch, and examine. Volunteer naturalists led short nature walks to bird watch.

There was also a Native American skills and gathering demonstration outside at the park fire circle.

One lucky student won a nature item in one of several raffles!

Student volunteers received SSL hours.



Get outside with your loved ones and soak up some Vitamin D. Play a game of corn hole, croquet or badminton. Have a bean bag toss or play tic tac toss. Plan a nature scavenger hunt. Bird watch. Learn photography. Live ~ Love ~ Learn!

Save the Date

Monarch Fiesta Month ~ September

Black Hill Visitor Center

Boys, Maryland

****The Naturalists will offer regular Monarch Meet & Greets with tagging demos, crafts to take home and meadow talks. Visit them on FB to enjoy virtual programming. Stay tuned for more information and online content!***

Annual Meeting ~ Nov 6 from 5-9 pm

Visitor Center

****The Board will explore creative ways to conduct our meeting and auction!***

Friends Board Meetings

The *Friends* will meet quarterly during the 2020 calendar year. Meetings may be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center, or via Zoom conference.

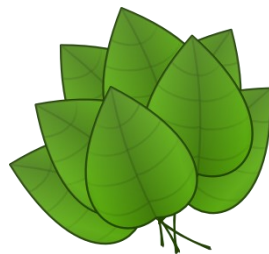
Meeting dates will continued to be shared with the *Friends* membership via e-mail.

Our membership exceeds 100 members!

We will have several vacancies this year. More information will come out to describe the duties of each position.

Teacher Naturalist

Summer is the time we celebrate having a Teacher Naturalist join BHNP for an intensive learning opportunity. Usually the Teacher Naturalist spends their summer shadowing the Naturalists and learning about teaching outdoors, while working on a project that can help serve more students. This summer will look a little different. Due to COVID-19, we will welcome a Teacher Naturalist who will join our team virtually. Hopefully, they will be able to join and participate in our virtual summer camps, virtual programming, modified programs and discussions with the Naturalists. We think that next summer and throughout 2021, the Naturalists will be able to join us in-person to resume the immersive experience.



A TEACHER
OPENS MINDS
AND TOUCHES
HEARTS ❤️



FRIENDS of the BLACK HILL NATURE PROGRAMS, Inc.

Black Hill Regional Park
20926 Lake Ridge Drive
Boys, MD 20841

Nature Programs Information:
301-528-3493
Nature & Group Programs
Reservations: 301-528-3492



GET INVOLVED!

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. We believe that these educational programs are the heart of the park.

The Board Members are:

Sheila MacLeod, *President*

Claudia Golenda, *Vice-President and Membership Secretary*

Mary McKnight, *Treasurer*

Karen Plá, *Secretary*

Charity Goodman, *Member*

Monika Laws, *Member*

Rabia Oflaz, *Member*

Keri Perez, *Member*

Anita Pustelnik, *Member*

Join the FOBHNP and receive member benefits now!

- ⇒ Receive a discount on many nature programs at Black Hill.
- ⇒ Ensure that the natural and cultural history programs at the park continue.
- ⇒ Become involved with issues that affect the programs.
- ⇒ Attend events conducted just for our *Friends* group such as van and kayak trips, picnics, pontoon boat tours, hikes and natural history training sessions.
- ⇒ Work closely with the park naturalists as you volunteer your time.
- ⇒ Gain a sense of satisfaction in helping our friends and neighbors of all ages experience and preserve nature.

To download a copy of the FOBHNP Member application, visit the web:

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/black-hill-nature-programs/friends-of-bhnp/>

Mail your FOBHNP application to:

Friends of Black Hill
20926 Lake Ridge Drive
Boys, MD 20841

NOTE: *The Board voted to change the membership year to coincide with the calendar year.*

Dues will now be collected in December for the upcoming membership year that will run January—December 2021.

