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Nature Play Spaces

The *Friends* funded the design of a map which will be displayed in the kiosks, on the side of the shed and in the stand below the Fairy Garden to highlight the location of the nature play spaces (i.e., Fairy Garden, Herb/Cutting Garden, Mud Kitchen, Chronolog location, and Timberton where the climbing logs are located). The map will be uploaded to Nature Programs website as well.

Additionally, we purchased flags for the display gardens, and have committed funds to purchase a sun shade to be placed over the Fairy Garden.

We have also agreed to purchase a new shed to replace the one that is deteriorating. A few changes will be made to the space where the shed is currently located, to possibly create a stage for the children to use.



All photos are by Karen Plá, except where noted.

"The most beautiful gift of nature is that it gives one pleasure to look around and try to comprehend what we see."

- Albert Einstein

"The first in time and the first in importance of the influences upon the mind is that of nature. Every day, the sun; and, after sunset, night and her stars."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Welcome to our Summer Teacher Naturalists

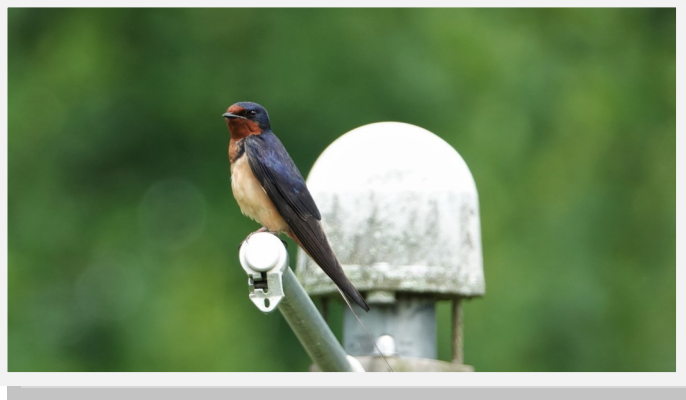
The *Friends* supported the addition of two interns who will serve as Summer Teacher Naturalists:

Carolyn Donovan is a Behavioral Analyst who worked in the school system previously and now runs her own company, working with families and students with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.

Frances Saez is from Puerto Rico, has a degree in marine biology and works at the private Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville.

We are excited to have our new interns on-board and look forward to the natural science programs they will provide.

KNOWLEDGE GIVES EDGE



And Then There was Mud!

The *Friends* helped to celebrate International Mud Day through our support of the 2nd annual Mudfest at the Woodstock Equestrian Park.

The Mudfest was held on June 22 and attracted more than 700 people eager to get down and dirty! The *Friends* paid for a 2,500 gallon water tank, purchased food from Sweet Farm for the volunteers and staff, and provided free bottled water for the participants. The weather cooperated beautifully and everyone enjoyed being silly. *[Photo Credit: Marilyn Sklar]*



Save the Date!

Monarch Fiesta Day - Saturday, September 21 from 11-3 pm. Free event for the whole family! Volunteers are requested to help.

Friends Annual Meeting - Friday, November 1 from 5-8 pm. Come and support your board and fellow members. We will have wine and cheese, music and a silent auction!

Seed Classroom



In March, Manager Jen Scully presented the SEED Classroom project at the Maryland State Senate in Annapolis for Bond Bill Saturday, where she sought funding. A bond bill for education is a piece of state legislature that, if passed, will provide funds for capital projects at institutions throughout the state. The SEED project was fortunate to be awarded a \$150,000 bond!

A grant from Sun Group, a Texas energy company, has been awarded to the project and is in the final stages of negotiation with Montgomery Parks and the Parks Foundation.

Park staff are working hard to prepare a presentation for the County Council on the project to receive Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds.

And finally, a consultant has been hired to work on engineering plans for the site.

Native Plant Sale Results

The plant sale was held April 25-28, 2019. It is our big fundraiser...our main event...the one that helps to support the Nature Programs.

The sale was a huge success and exceeded all of our expectations, and previous year's totals.

We had a gross profit of almost \$20,000 (which included new memberships). The net profit for 2018 was \$12,600.



Camp Scholarships

The *Friends* supported two Marvin Kahn Summer Camp Scholarships for the 2019 camp season. They were awarded to a local boy and girl, both of whom had wonderful applications.

The boy will attend the Nature Child Camp from July 29 through August 7 and the girl will attend the Nature Girl Camp from August 5-9.



Black Hill Nature Programs (BlackHillNature.org)

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

Nature Programs Information:

(301) 528-3493

Nature & Group Programs Reservations:

(301) 528-3492



Formed in April 2001, the Friends support, promote, and sustain nature programs and special events conducted by the interpretative naturalist staff at Black Hill Visitor Center. We believe these educational programs are the heart of the park. The Friends meet quarterly at 10:00 am in the Visitor Center, unless otherwise announced. The Board Members are:

Sheila MacLeod, President

Claudia Golenda, VP & Acting Membership Secretary

Mary McKnight, Acting Treasurer

Karen Plá, Secretary

Charity Goodman, Member

Monika Laws, Member

Rabia Oflaz, Member

Keri Perez, Member

Anita Pustelnik, Member

Member Benefits

Join the FOBHNP and get involved 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 held such as van trips, picnics, pontoon boat tours, wildflower 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 to experience and preserve nature.

Join Now!

To download a copy of the FOBHNP Member application, visit the web at <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/black-hill-nature-programs/friends-of-bhnp/>

Mail your application to:

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