

March 2021 ~ Winter Edition

Volume 1, Issue 1

FOBHNPN News

Friends of the Black Hill Nature Programs



Save the Date ~ April 30-May 2 ~ 13th Annual Native Plant Sale

This year's Native Plant Sale will be conducted online!

Check out our website now to get a preview of the plants we are actively growing and plan to sell. We have created categories so that you can more easily select plants that are pollinator friendly, drought tolerant and deer resistant (not necessarily deer proof). We also grouped the plants so you can select those that prefer sun, or shade and identified a few fan favorites that although non-native, are a beautiful addition to your garden for the summer months.

When the link is live, you can select and purchase your plants. All proceeds from the plant sale will benefit the Black Hill Nature Programs. The FOBHNPN is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

* **Thursday, April 29 ~ Members Only**

- * Friday, April 30 ~ General Public
- * Saturday, May 1 ~ General Public
- * Sunday, May 2 ~ General Public

From May 5-8, you can make a reservation to pick up your plants at the Visitor Center in Black Hill Regional Park.

Potted native plants for sale prior to COVID. Photo credit: Karen Plá



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**HAPPINESS
HELD IS THE SEED;
HAPPINESS SHARED
IS THE FLOWER.**

John Harrigan

Friends Update

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the *Friends* organization. We are working to plan some exciting events to honor and celebrate this important milestone.

The Annual Meeting & Silent Auction held on November 6th was a very successful event.

The *Friends* sponsored a Storyteller event on Nov 15th. Katrina reported that 50 people joined virtually. It was their first virtual event and was a huge success. Many thanks to Adam Booth.

We want to offer a big “Thank You” to all who have visited our Donate web page to purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist to provide for the Nature Programming at Black Hill. The Naturalists have told us the donations have been very successful and are greatly appreciated.

We have a vacancy for the Secretary position. The term is for two years and duties include attending quarterly meetings and taking minutes. If interested, email us.

Membership renewal for 2021 is due! Please contact us via email or the web to renew your membership. One particularly nice perk is early access to the Native Plant Sale!



Friends of Black Hill Nature Programs

The *Friends Group* was formed in April 2001 by volunteers interested in supporting the interpretative naturalist staff and the nature programs, to ensure that nature experiences and environmental education would be available to individuals of all ages.

Contact Us!

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



E-mail: FriendsBlackHill@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.friendsofblackhillnature.org>



Tundra Swans flying over Little Lake Seneca. Photo credit: Karen Plá

Scout Projects

The *Friends* supported Girl Scout projects to build bluebird boxes for a bluebird trail, and another to build a sensory trail to support the needs of our naturalists. Thanks to Connor Dejewski of Boy Scout Troop 489 for planning, building and donating a bee hotel for our pollinators for his Eagle Scout Award!

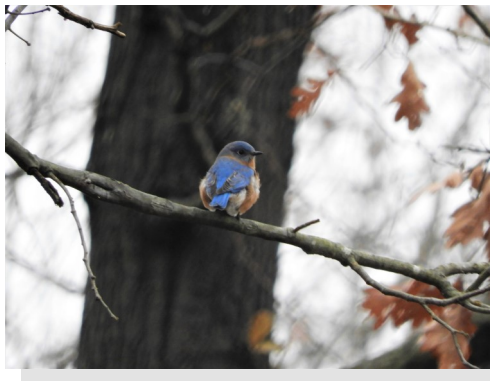


Photo of an Eastern Bluebird. Photo credit: Karen Plá

Jr. Naturalist Activity Book, Bird Checklist, & More

Please visit our website to check out our Additional Resources page:

Young explorers wishing to become a Junior Naturalist can learn skills that will set them on the path to work in a park someday. The *Friends* funded and created the Black Hill Junior Naturalist Activity Book that can be downloaded for free from our website. Hard copies will be available as early as June 5 when the Visitor Center re-opens for weekends only (Saturdays and Sundays from 12-5 pm). The activity book includes a crossword puzzle, word searches and scrambles, coloring pages, scavenger hunts, and factoids for budding naturalists of all ages.

The *Friends* created a Bird Checklist that includes the 205 species that have been observed in the past decade. A big thank you to Tim Gier for compiling the extensive list, and to Katy Marchese for the beautiful illustration. Schedule time to visit the park to discover, sketch or photograph your life bird.

Check out the Gift Guides for your special adventurer, gardener or gamer. The gift support local businesses.

Have you created a natural habitat in your garden? Read up and become a part of the Homegrown National Park. No experience is necessary. The grassroots organization is mobilizing individual homeowners, property owners, land managers, and farmers with some soil to plant native plants and remove most invasive plants. Let's get dirty!