



RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 10, NO. 1 SPRING 2010



Getting The Inside View at Huntley Meadows

By Lori K. Weinraub, Park Authority Volunteer

When you think about places where you can take a behind-the-scenes tour, parks may not come to mind. But [Huntley Meadows Park](#) is changing that with its “Wild Side” wagon rides that take visitors to parts of the park that are difficult to reach or even inaccessible by foot.

Veteran park visitors already know Huntley Meadows is a prime spot for birds, beavers and creatures that thrive in the rich Hybla Valley wetlands. But when you take one of the 90-minute wagon rides with a naturalist as your tour guide, you get an inside view of the park’s deep forests and meadows.

Park Manager Kevin Munroe said staff came up with the idea for the wagon rides as a way to do more on the under-utilized South Kings Highway side of the park. That area is not as well known as [other park parts](#) because there’s no access to the popular wetlands boardwalk or the visitor center.

“You’ll get to see parts of the park that most others don’t,” Munroe said.

It took about a year of planning before the first rides in the fall of 2009. Huntley Meadows’ maintenance crew chief turned a vehicle trailer that’s used to haul equipment into a wagon that can seat 14 paying passengers and a guide.

The adventure begins at the park’s South Kings Highway entrance. The first stop is Dragonfly Meadow, where visitors learn about the burns that help manage the meadows. They also learn about bluebird nesting boxes and the purpose of a visible blue tarp. (It smothers the



invasive mile-a-minute vine that seems to grow, well, a mile a minute.)

Then the wagon goes off-road to Woodcock Meadow, which used to be woods. The next stop is the observation platform and a break for cookies and lemonade. One ride last fall went off another trail to a beaver lodge. Munroe said he would like to offer more of those rides, which would run longer than two hours. But for now the platform is the last stop before the ride back to South Kings Highway.

The interpreters work off an outline — or talking points — but the best parts of the rides aren’t scripted. They happen

[naturally](#) in a park such as Huntley Meadows — like the huge swarm of migrating dragonflies and the osprey that Munroe saw on one of his rides, or the frogs on the blue tarp that captivated riders on one of Program Director Melissa Gauling’s trips.

“It was delightful to come out of it to find people really like it,” Gauling said, adding that one of her favorite moments was the reaction of a group of 10-year-old Girl Scouts who didn’t know what to expect.

There are no rides in winter, but a walk along the trail on a cold January day yields unexpected delights: the groaning of the trees from the cold, chickadees talking to each other and clubmoss (lycopodium) that once grew 100 feet tall in prehistoric times

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NATURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC SITES

BURKE LAKE PARK

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

COLVIN RUN MILL

10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

FRYING PAN FARM PARK

2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER

7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER

8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

LAKE FAIRFAX PARK

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

RIVERBEND PARK

8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

SULLY HISTORIC SITE

3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

HISTORIC PROPERTIES RENTAL SERVICES

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm
Call 703-938-8835

Need directions or more information?

VISIT www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

RESOURCES

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Visit ResOURces Online

SPRING EVENTS

(Reservations required for most activities. More Events on page 13.)

Watershed Clean-Up Day

March 28, 9-11:30am

Be part of the Potomac Watershed Cleanup

Frying Pan Farm Park,

703-437-9101 (Frying Pan Branch)

Hidden Oaks Nature Center,

703-941-1065
(Roundtree Park — Holmes Run)

Hidden Pond Nature Center,

703-451-9588 (Pohick Creek)

Huntley Meadows Park,

703-768-2525 (Little Hunting Creek)

Riverbend Visitor Center,

703-759-9018 (Potomac River)

Sully Historic Site,

703-437-1794
(Cain's Branch)

Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park,

703-631-0013, (also 1-3pm, Flatlick Branch, Big Rocky Run, Cub Run and Frog Branch)

Colvin Run Mill

10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-2771

Maple Syrup Boil-Down

March 7, Noon-2pm

Celebrate spring! Learn about sugaring and watch as gallons of sap are reduced to ounces of delicious syrup over an open fire. \$2

Spring Reopening

April 4, Noon-3pm.

Tour the mill and watch the miller grind the year's first batch of cornmeal. Weather permitting, the miller will grind the first and third Sundays through October. Tour cost: \$6/adults, \$5/students 16 and up with ID, \$4/children (5-15) and seniors (63 and up).

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

5040 Walney Road • Chantilly, VA 20151
703-631-0013

Camps at ECLP

Animals That Go Bump In The Night

Campers search for and learn about nocturnal creatures as they explore the park.

Three-day session:

June 30-July 2, (5-6 yrs. completed kindergarten), 9:30am-12:30pm, \$75/camper

Five-day sessions:

July 12-July 16, 6-8 yrs., \$130/camper

July 19-July 23, 6-8 yrs., \$130/camper

July 26-July 30, 9-11 yrs., \$150/camper

August 2-August 6, 9-11 yrs., \$150/camper

Insects and their Predators

March 29-April 2, (6-8 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm

Explore different park habitats to learn about various insects and their predators. Visit the pond to fish for aquatic insects. \$130

Amphibian Camp

March 29-30, (9-12 yrs.), 9am-noon

Learn about Fairfax County's awesome amphibians. Check a vernal pool and set amphibian traps. \$50

Dinosaur Days Camp

March 29-April 1, (5-8 yrs.),

9am-noon at Cabell's Mill

Spend the week with a naturalist learning about all things dinosaurs.

Reptile Rangers Camp

August 5-9, (8-12 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm

Get an introduction to Fairfax County's native reptiles. Become a Reptile Ranger! \$130

All Day Nature Camp

August 16-20, (6-11 yrs.), 9am-4pm

Spend a week with a naturalist to learn about the park. \$250

Junior Girl Scout Nature Badge Camp

August 18-21, (9-12 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm

Fulfill six "Let's Get Outdoors" badges. Camp overnight Thursday. \$175

Help Every Child to Fly!

By Paul Baldino, Executive Director, Park Foundation

Do your body a favor the next time you're near a park playground. Stop. Watch. Remember the feeling, the excitement as you scaled new heights on the swing and challenged yourself to reach into the sky. Remember wondering what it would be like to go all the way around in a circle. Would you fly? Could you touch the sky? Swinging is a rush. It's fun.

Some kids can't do it, and the Fairfax County Park Foundation is out to change that with the help of an invention from Down Under.

[Clemyjontri Park](#), at 6317 Georgetown Pike in McLean, is home to one of the first large-scale playgrounds in the U.S. specifically designed for children with and without disabilities to play side-by-side. Clemyjontri's innovative play equipment has brought smiles, healthy exercise and new self-confidence to thousands of children who use wheelchairs, walkers or braces, or who have sensory or developmental disabilities.

But Clemyjontri Park lacks an important play feature — a swing accessible to children who use wheelchairs and are unable to transfer to a standard swing. A one-of-a-

*I believe I can fly.
I believe I can touch the sky.
I think about it every night and day.
Spread my wings and fly away.*

— Singer-songwriter Robert Kelly

kind solution is now available. [The Liberty Swing](#), an Australian invention, allows full swing height – real swinging, not just rocking back and forth.

Along with its play value, the Liberty Swing has significant therapeutic benefits — visual-spatial, muscle tone, head control,



A Liberty Swing would bring even more smiles to Clemyjontri Park.

self-regulation, attention and emotion. And the Liberty Swing's popularity is not limited to kids. Adult wheelchair users can experience the exhilaration of swinging, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

The Liberty Swing functions much like an ordinary swing, but numerous design and engineering features are incorporated to accommodate a wheelchair. You can learn more about the swing and see an action video at the [Park Foundation](#) Web site.

More than 170 Liberty Swings are in use in Australia and New Zealand, but only a handful reside in the U.S. The closest to Fairfax County are in Long Island, New York, and Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Liberty Swing would be a wonderful addition to Clemyjontri Park, but the cost is beyond Fairfax County's downsized budget.

Your help is needed to bring a Liberty Swing to Clemyjontri Park. Your tax-deductible gift to the Fairfax County Park Foundation will enable children who use wheelchairs to experience the fun and freedom of swinging through the air.

All gifts are welcome, and donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a permanent plaque at the swing site.

How you can help:

Make your gift [online](#).

Send a check to the Fairfax County Park Foundation/Liberty Swing Fund, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Call 703-324-8581 for more information.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that helps pick up where tax dollars leave off in meeting community needs for park land, facilities and services. Contributions to the Park Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation's [Web site](#) has received a Gold Award for outstanding creative achievement in the 2009 MarCom Awards, sponsored by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals. The winning Web site design was a pro bono gift from Hinge Incorporated of Reston, Virginia.

TICK TOCK, IT'S TICK TIME

Warmer weather's coming. Bike rides, hikes, soddy hands in the garden, green leaves, tight fishing lines, frog croaks, bird songs and....

TICKS.

If you want to go outside but stay dry when it rains, you have to wear a rain coat. If you want to stay safe while playing in the woods, you have to deal with ticks.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT TICKS

First, realize that when you walk into your yard, a grassy field or the woods, there are ticks there. We share the space with them, so you might get a tick on you. But don't let that keep you indoors. There are things you can do to reduce the chances of one sticking on you long enough to infect you, which takes several hours.

Vicky Monroe, the Fairfax County wildlife biologist, says the first place to go for information about ticks is the [Center for Disease Control](#) Web site. The [Fairfax County Health Department](#) Web site is also flush with information on ticks. Then turn your attention to your yard.

Monroe says that because of the blacklegged tick's nickname of 'deer tick,' people think "we need the deer out of our yard. They completely pass right over the primary host for the larval and nymphal ticks, which account for 95% of all Lyme disease cases."

That host is the white-footed mouse. Although Monroe says deer are the "public transit system" for female ticks, she says to reduce the chances of acquiring a tick-borne disease, manage your yard to keep mice out. Bacteria on the mice infect ticks, which lay eggs that hatch into infected offspring. Those nymphs that account for most disease problems are about the size of a poppy seed and can look like a freckle.



The tick chart

A TICK-FREE YARD

Keep your yard tidy and [tick-free](#). Ticks, like [deer](#), are an edge species. They hang around areas where there is change, such as the edge where a yard turns into woods.

Keep your lawn mowed, but if you live next to parkland be careful not to encroach upon park property. No wood piles. Keep taller plants trimmed down. The larval ticks climb to the top of grasses, waive their arms around and latch onto anything that passes. If you have an outdoor pet, don't feed it outdoors. The food attracts mice. Use a 'tickicide' on the animal. Your vet can guide you through that process. Wear light colors and long sleeves. Do daily tick checks on your body — all of your body. Make it habit and you'll quickly overcome any discomfort you feel about looking for a 'bug bite.' Put a three-foot strip of wood chips or gravel between grassy areas and woods. Ticks need humidity. They die quickly in dry conditions. Removing leaf litter and mowing increases exposure to sunlight.

The Fairfax County Health Department does sometimes recommend chemical controls, but remember that the chemicals are not tick-specific. They kill more than ticks and can contaminate streams. Monroe considers that a "last ditch" effort.

TICK REMOVAL

Removing a tick from your skin is easy, but there are proper steps to follow to avoid

complications. Use tweezers, not fingers. Pull steadily, don't twist, jerk, squeeze or crush. Don't handle the tick. Wash the bite site and your hands afterwards. There's more detail and a video on [tick removal](#) on the county Web site.

Most ticks don't carry diseases, and a tick must be attached for several hours before it will pass any disease into your system. However, realize that you might not know you've been bitten by a tick. If you develop a bulls-eye rash at the sign of the bite, fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle or joint aches, sweating, nausea, vomiting or loss of appetite, see a doctor. All tick-borne diseases are treatable if detected early. Major health problems can develop if the symptoms are ignored.

For much more information about ticks, go to either of these Web sites and type "ticks" in the search box:

[The Virginia Department of Health Fairfax County.](#)

The county Web site has information about [repellents](#), [DEET](#) and [permethrin](#).

Steps you can take to avoid ticks:

- ✓ Avoid tall grass and dense vegetation.
- ✓ Walk in the center of mowed trails.
- ✓ Keep grass and underbrush trimmed.
- ✓ Eliminate places that small rodents may live.
- ✓ Wear light-colored clothing so that you can see ticks more easily.
- ✓ Tuck pants legs into socks. Wear long-sleeved shirts.
- ✓ Check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks every 4 to 6 hours and when you shower.
- ✓ Apply tick repellent.

Births at Frying Pan

Celebrate birthdays on the farm!

Follow the spring births at Frying Pan Farm Park by following this link:

[New Arrivals.](#)



Follow births at Frying Pan Farm Park this spring on the Internet.

FCPA E-News

Learn more about Fairfax County parks and things to do in them. Sign up for [email](#) notices about park programs, classes, events and projects.



Remember to recycle your used monofilament fishing line this season when you fish in Fairfax County parks.

You'll find recycling bins at Burke Lake, Lake Fairfax, Hidden Pond, Riverbend Park and Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.

Protect our wildlife and our scenery.

Look for these monofilament line recycling bins at fishing sites in Fairfax County and across Virginia. Line only, no trash, please.



Do you love your county parks? Share one with a friend!

[Fairfax County Park Authority gift cards](#)

They're available at county RECenters, golf courses, nature centers, historic sites and online at [Gift Card](#).

Riverbend: A Rare and Rugged Refuge



Riverbend Park Manager Marty Smith talks about the new exhibit displays at Riverbend.



Artist Rose Powhatan, a member of the Virginia Tauxenent and Pamunkey Indian tribes, says the clothing on the mannequin in the new exhibit at Riverbend Park is a very accurate depiction.

New exhibit at the park by the river

The Tauxenent Indian Warrior stands tall and proud in the heart of a new exhibit at Riverbend Park.

Through the new exhibit, “Riverbend: A Rare and Rugged Refuge,” you can explore one of the rarest biological ecosystems on the East Coast and glimpse back in time to life along the Potomac River 500 years ago. There are plants and animals living together today in the Potomac Gorge in side-by-side relationships that don’t exist anywhere else. The exhibit explains how that came about, why Riverbend Park is so precious today and why the area was so critical to life in the past.

It is the mixing of floodplains, rocky cliffs and narrow valleys that makes this area so valuable, and the exhibit highlights the creation of that mix, forged by the erosive powers of the Potomac River.



First-day visitors at the grand opening of the new exhibit at Riverbend Park

The exhibit also introduces you to the first people who called the shores of the Potomac River home. You'll learn about Paleo Indians known for their skill as big game hunters and about the ancient lands of Fairfax County that once were covered by ocean and volcanic islands.

Of particular note is a totem pole designed and carved by Rose Powhatan, an artist and a member of the Virginia Tauxenent and Pamunkey Indian tribes, both indigenous to the area. At the exhibit's January 23 ribbon-cutting, Powhatan acknowledged many people who made "the voices of the Virginia Indians heard" in the exhibit. She said "Riverbend Park is very special for me because my fathers' family lived here for so many, many years. You might say we're part of the dirt now." She added the hope that the exhibit "will encourage more people to come out" to the site.

Dranesville District Park Authority Board Member Kevin Fay described the exhibit as "a place where we can learn how the Potomac Gorge was formed and why it is so important that we preserve areas such as this." He said it gives us "a chance to better understand the people who once lived on these shores."

Friends of Riverbend Park Treasurer Tim Hackman said the exhibit "tells an impressive story of the Potomac River Gorge and of the native Americans who lived here and their stories as well. The First Peoples, as they're called throughout North America, knew how to use the land and the river gently in ways that would not deplete or damage its beauty or its bounty."

We all have a direct interest in continuing that stewardship.

11 things a kid should do in a county park before turning 11:

- Learn to identify six trees, six flowers and six birds
- Photograph a flower at Green Spring Gardens
- Churn butter at Sully Historic Site
- Hike on the Cross County Trail
- Log a miniature golf hole-in-one at Oak Marr, Lake Accotink, Jefferson District or Burke Lake Park
- See and hear the mill grind grain at Colvin Run
- Ride a carousel at Burke Lake, Lake Accotink, Lake Fairfax or Clemyjontri Park
- Take a wagon ride at Frying Pan Farm Park or Huntley Meadows Park
- Ride the Burke Lake train
- Catch a fish at Riverbend, Ellanor Lawrence, Lake Fairfax, Lake Accotink or Burke Lake
- Dig a hole at Hidden Oaks' Nature Playce



Obtaining butter at Sully Historic Site took a bit more work than scanning a bar code.



Spending a little time fishing in a park is a great way for a kid to bond with a parent.



Hop on a wagon this spring for a tour of Frying Pan Farm Park or Huntley Meadows Park.

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

*Express your love for county parks. Help the Park Authority care for the parks.
Join a Friends group.*

The Friends of Colvin Run Mill

— These folks are dedicated to preserving the technological and industrial heritage of Northern Virginia for future generations. Their goal is to educate visitors, children and families about early colonial life in the community. See the [membership application](#) online or [learn more](#) on the Web.

The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park

— Membership is free. Members support the park's unique blend of natural, agrarian, historical, recreational, educational and equestrian cultures. [Learn more](#) online.

The Friends of Green Spring

— There are people at Green Spring who'd like to turn you into a FROG! Join one of the region's most active and supportive friends groups and support one of Washington, DC's most exciting public gardens and a national historic landscape. Join [FROGS](#).

The Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center

— These are people protecting a natural habitat in Annandale. They support research education and habitat protection, and they encourage families to get outside and play. Learn more on their [Web site](#).

The Friends of Hidden Pond and Pohick Stream Valley

— This all-volunteer organization helps maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and conducts restoration projects in the communities and open lands of the Pohick Stream Valley. Contact them through Hidden Pond Nature Center at **703-451-9588** or email fohpnc@yahoo.com.

The Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

— Huntley Meadows friends want to ensure that the park remains a special place in Northern Virginia. They support program education, fund an intern position, supplement park budgets and partner on grant-supported projects. See their [Web site](#) for more information.

The Friends of Historic Huntley

— These are guardians and interpreters of a federal period [villa](#) built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason. Contact Barbara Ballentine through Huntley Meadows Park at **703-768-2525** or fohhuntley@aol.com.

The Friends of Riverbend Park

— These friends are dedicated to the responsible stewardship and preservation of the undisturbed natural beauty at Riverbend Park on the Potomac River. They safeguard the park as a natural 'classroom' for the inspiration, enjoyment and education of park visitors. [Learn more](#) on their Web site.

The Sully Foundation, Ltd.

— The Sully Foundation was created to support special projects at Sully Historic Site. Call Sully at **703-437-1794** for more information about The Sully Foundation.

The Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Cultural Resources

— Information about helping protect county cultural resources is available through the Park Authority's Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section at **703-534-3881**.

Spend a little more time in a park.

VOLUNTEER.

Join the hundreds of Fairfax County residents who volunteer and spend more time in your beautiful parks. For information, call 703-324-8750, or learn about volunteering online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer.htm.

Resource Management Division Anniversaries in 2010



The Park Authority acquired the Manor House at Green Spring Gardens 40 years ago.

15 Years Ago

- Green Spring's Manor House renovated

20 Years Ago

- Huntley Meadows visitor center dedicated
- Sully Historic Site accredited by the American Association of Museums

25 Years Ago

- Renovation of Hidden Pond and spillway
- Friends of Huntley Meadows established

30 Years Ago

- Reconstruction started on Cabell's Mill
- Park Authority acquired Great Falls Grange

35 Years Ago

- Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley established
- Park Authority acquires Huntley Meadows Park
- Riverbend Park Nature Center and visitor center dedicated
- Sully House dedicated
- Moffett Blacksmith Shop at Frying Pan Farm Park dedicated
- Interim Hidden Pond Nature Center dedicated



Netting pond life at Hidden Pond.

40 Years Ago

- Park Authority acquired Manor House at Green Spring Gardens

- Sully Historic Site placed on National Register of Historic Places
- Sully Foundation established

45 Years Ago

- Colvin Run Mill Historic Site became a park
- Park Authority acquired Kidwell Farm

50 Years Ago

- Park Authority acquired Floris School at Frying Pan Farm Park

60 Years Ago

- Fairfax County Park Authority created

75 Years Ago

- Sears/Spindle house built

120 Years Ago

- Forestville Schoolhouse built
- Hunter House built

230 Years Ago

- Walney House built

250 Years Ago

- Stone Mansion built

265 Years Ago

- Cabell's Mill built

Getting the Inside View at Huntley Meadows *continued from page 1*

but is now just three inches high.

"This has the potential to be the gateway program for us," Munroe said, noting that many riders said it was the first program they've taken at Huntley Meadows. If the rides make people realize how unique and special Huntley Meadows is, "that makes it all worthwhile," he said.

The rides commence in May, with two dates scheduled, then take a break in summer to give the birds and animals born in spring the time they need to adjust to their



surroundings. Rides will resume in August and continue into November so passengers can revel in fall's splendor. The cost is \$6 per person and riders must be at least six years old.

Huntley Meadows, at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard in Alexandria, is also a great place for an office or club retreat. Meet in the midst of a premier wetland sanctuary. Meeting room [rentals](#) are available at \$50 an hour for up to 50 people. Call 703-768-2525 for more information.

Call 703-768-2525 for information on wagon rides at Huntley Meadows. Kidwell Farm at [Frying Pan Farm Park](#) also has wagon rides through the site's woods and fields. Information is available at 703-437-9101.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE PARLOR?

[Colvin Run Mill](#) has some new items displaying styles from the turn of the century 110 years ago.

Over-decoration and layering of textures and fabrics was common in American parlors as the 19th century spun into the 20th. Reflecting those tastes is a new, green, patterned piano scarf, fringed in gold and enlivening the parlor inside the Miller's House at Colvin Run Mill.

Not only were varieties of color, pattern, fabric and furniture styles at home in the parlors of the day, but homeowners treated their parlor as their family museum, displaying framed photographs, marriage certificates, decorative artifacts and natural objects. *Victorian America* author Thomas Schlereth wrote that parlors served "as the repository of a family's treasured possessions and as the exhibit space in which the lady of the house demonstrated her artistic and cultural refinement."

Joining a tea table and green upholstered chairs on display in the Miller's House parlor are several new artifacts, including a settee and several upholstered chairs, a paisley shawl, a paper fan and various children's items. Visitors can try using a working stereoscope and slides in the room.

There's also a framed, copied photo of Virginia McGavin, daughter of former mill owner Sam Millard. A large photo of the Millard family greets visitors as they enter the new parlor area, which also houses the Millard family Bible and large photographic prints of three Millard family members.

Visitors seem very pleased with the exhibit. One tourist walked into the parlor and happily announced that it was "just like Nana's."

The parlor displays include a photo of Virginia Millard, one of six children of former mill owners Sam and Olive Dyer Millard. Virginia Millard was the last of the six children to pass away. She died December 28, 2009, at age 96.

Her funeral service was held in the barn at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site.



New parlor furnishings are on display in the miller's house at Colvin Run Mill.



The settee and three chairs on display in the parlor were loaned to the Park Authority in February of 2008. The owner was very pleased when she saw the exhibit and later donated the furniture to the site.

***Colvin Run Mill is making big plans for the future.
Site staffers are looking forward to the mill's 200th anniversary on August 11, 2011.***

Awards and Rewards

Five Park Authority employees recently were honored with Outstanding Performance Awards from Fairfax County. Receiving awards for their work on behalf of county residents were:

- **David Bowden, Park Division Director**, for a myriad of improvements to the quality of park planning and development projects
- **John Hannon, Park/Recreation Assistant**, for extraordinary support to Lake Fairfax Park's Water Mine and Cub Run RECenter during a staffing shortage and equipment failures
- **Meghan Fellows, Naturalist**, for developing a valuable handbook that helps citizens recognize and control invasive plants, winning awards from international organizations for the publication, and for spearheading an innovative plan that became the statewide Remove an Invasive Plant Day
- **Leeanne Russell, Park/Recreation Specialist II** and **Braden J Peterson, Park/Recreation Assistant**, for generating \$275,000 in camp revenue with 24 camps

Some croaking voices helped the Fairfax County Park Authority earn a 2009 MarCom Gold award for outstanding achievement in marketing and communication. The award was presented for the agency's podcast about spring frogs, **Hidden Pond: The Sounds of Spring**. Project contributors included Hidden Pond Nature Center Manager Jim Pomeroy, Park Authority Video Producer Mark Garrah and Resource Management Division Manager of Stewardship Communications David Ochs.

The MarCom Awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals. The award-winning podcast is on the Hidden Pond Nature Center [Web site](#).



Naturalist Meghan Fellows received an Outstanding Performance Award from the county for developing a handbook that helps citizens identify invasive plants.



Hidden Pond Assistant Manager Mike McCaffrey teaches youngsters how to be Pohick Rangers.

Here's a comment following the ResOURces (Winter 2010) article about Mike McCaffrey and the Pohick Rangers at Hidden Pond Nature Center:

Hello Mike,

Read the outstanding feature article in Resources-Winter 2010. We at TOT Preschool have always known that you are one of the best people working for Fairfax County Park Authority. It is nice to see it in print. I have no doubt that you are influencing young students of three, four and five years of age also. Your program is always a favorite here at our preschool. We look forward to it each year. The children learn so much about the environment and the creatures around them through great explanations and fun. Anyone who can hold the attention of 24 three-year-old children and 30 four-year-olds has to be pretty special. It was good to see that you are getting the recognition that you deserve.

All the best in 2010. We look forward to the next Hidden Pond Presentation at our school.

Sincerely,

Shirley Edwards

Director, T.O.T. Preschool

Give somebody a day in a park!

[Fairfax County Park Authority gift cards](#)

They're available at county RECenters, golf courses, nature centers, historic sites and online at [Gift Card](#).



Explore Our Web Site:

Have some online fun by exploring some of the surprises on the Fairfax County Park Authority Web site.

Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ and type the keyword listed below into the Search box, or click on the links.

- Get your binoculars. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park staffers have created a list of 133 bird species documented at the site. The list describes how often and the time of year the birds usually appear. Keyword: "[lawrence bird](#)"



Track birds in your own yard with the online list from Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.

- Learn about the Accotink Creek watershed and the effect of storm runoff on the lake and the Chesapeake Bay. Keyword: "[Accotink the bay](#)"



Go online to learn about Lake Accotink, which lies behind this dam, and the step-by-step process of cleaning storm runoff that winds up in the Chesapeake Bay.

- This page is called Worms! It's all about, well, worms! Search: "[Worms](#)"
- Find biking, equestrian, nature and hiking trail maps online. Search: "[Trails](#)"
- See back issues of *ResOURces*. Search "[Resources newsletter](#)"
- Solve the puzzle. Colvin Run Mill's Web site has one for kids. Search: "[kidz](#)".



Learn about the county's Farmers' Markets online.

- Everything you wanted to know about Farmers' Markets. Search: "[farmers markets](#)"
- Here's what you need to know about non-native invasive plants. Keyword: "[invasive](#)"



You can learn a lot about non-native invasive plants, such as this bamboo, on the Fairfax County Park Authority Web site.

- Learn about the steps the Park Authority takes to protect natural resources. Keyword: "[nrp resources](#)"
- Learn about the steps the Park Authority takes to protect cultural resources. Keyword: "[crp resources](#)"
- What is this thing called stewardship? Keyword: "[stewardship](#)"
- Who do you call with a question about parks? Keyword: "[whodoyoucall](#)"
- Read Park Authority brochures about plants, animals and parks. Keyword: "[stewardship brochures](#)"
- Celebrate! Frying Pan Farm Park lists its animal birthdays. Search: "[birthing](#)"



Hunter House is one of eight Park Authority historic sites you can rent for a party or meeting.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES RENTAL SERVICES

Make your own history at one of the Fairfax County Park Authority's historic sites. Rent any of these sites for your next corporate or social event:

- Cabell's Mill in Centreville
- Clark House in Falls Church
- Dranesville Tavern in Dranesville
- Forestville Schoolhouse in Great Falls
- Great Falls Grange in Great Falls
- Hunter House in Vienna
- Stone Mansion in Alexandria
- Wakefield Chapel in Annandale

Call 703-938-8835 or see the sites at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm.



EQUAL ACCESS/SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator 703-324-8563
TTY 703-803-3354
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm

Subscribe to ResOURces

We'll send you an email quarterly to let you know when a new issue is posted online.

[Subscribe](#) online.

SPRING EVENTS *continued from page 2***Also at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park****Owl Campfire**

March 13, (Families), 6-7pm

Meet our resident barred owl, listen for night sounds, and toast marshmallows around the campfire. \$5

Fishing at Walney Pond

March 20, (Families), 9-10:30am

Bring your fishing poles and bait to Walney Pond. \$5/person.

Walk with a Naturalist

April 11, (10 yrs and up), 7-8:30am

Explore the sights and sounds, flora and fauna of the park with an early morning walk. \$5

Bluebell Hike

April 18, (10 yrs. and up), 1-3pm

Learn about native wildflowers. Bring field guides and hiking shoes. \$5

Earth Day Celebration

April 25, (Families), 10-11:30am.

Celebrate Earth Day by getting dirty. Act locally by planting native trees and shrubs on public lands. Mulch and repair the park trails to prevent erosion. FREE

Breakfast with the Birds

May 1, (10 yrs. and up), 8-10:30am

Enjoy a continental breakfast before a two-mile hike to observe and hear songbirds. Bring binoculars and field guides. \$8

Copperheads and Black Racers!

May 22, (12 yrs. and up), 9-11am

Assist a naturalist with a reptile survey. \$5

**Frying Pan Farm Park**

2709 West Ox Road
Herndon, VA 20171 • 703-437-9101

Just Jumper Horse Show Series

March 14, 9am

Watch local residents compete in a variety of jumping classes. Spectators FREE

Virginia Hunters Horse Show Series

March 27 and April 24, 9am

Walk, trot, canter beginner horse show. Spectators FREE

Little Hands on the Farm

March 8, 22, April 12, 26, May 10, 24 and June 7

Meet a farm animal, enjoy a story, craft or game, and pretend to be the farmer. \$6/child

2-3 yr. olds: 9:45-10:30am

3-5 yr. olds: 11-11:45am

Putting the Animals to Bed

March 16, 18, 23 and 25, (3-6 yrs.), 7-8pm

Bring your flashlight for a twilight tour to learn how our farm animals settle down at night. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5

**Kite Fun Day at the Farm**

April 10, 10:30am-noon or 1-2:30pm

Make and decorate a kite, then watch it soar. \$6/child

Farm Baby Day

April 17, 10am-3pm

Greet the new babies at Frying Pan Farm Park. FREE, donations welcome

Spring Farm Day

May 8, 10am-3pm

Watch sheep shearing and antique farm equipment demonstrations. Hands-on farm activities, such as cow and goat milking. \$5

Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, VA 22312 • 703-642-5173

Worm Workshop

March 20, 2-3pm

Celebrate this first day of spring with a family-friendly way to help keep our planet healthy! \$25

**Do-it-yourself Wildlife Workshop**

April 17, 2-3pm

Meet your neighbors — turtles and frogs, birds and bugs. \$15

Multiplying Garden Treasures: Division

April 10, 9:30-11:30am

Mary Frogale, staff horticulturalist, demonstrates how to use hatchets, pruning knives and garden forks to lift, split and divide single plants into many divisions. \$22

Eco-Friendly Gardening

April 17, 9:30-11am

Curatorial horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol demonstrates ways to practice environmentally friendly gardening. \$14

Spring Garden Day

May 15, 9am-3pm

More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants fill your spring gardening needs.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

7701 Royce Street
Annandale, VA 22003 • 703-941-1065

Spring Scavenger Hunt

(All ages), 9am-5pm weekdays, noon-5pm weekends and 12-5pm holidays

Enjoy an outdoor, self-guided scavenger hunt. \$1

Goodnight Walk: Awakening Wildlife

March 13, (4 yrs. & up), 7:30-8:30pm

Celebrate the extra hour this weekend with a nighttime stroll. \$6

SPRING EVENTS *continued from page 13***Spring Eggstravaganza and Puppet Show**

March 20, (4 yrs. and up), 1-2pm
Celebrate the first day of spring with a puppet show, stories and crafts. \$5/child

Rabbits: Facts and Fables

April 4, (4 yrs. & up), 1:30-2:30pm
Meet a rabbit and learn how the tradition of the Easter Bunny began. Find out if a rabbit or a deer has been nibbling your garden. \$5/child

Dinofest in Nature Playce

April 25, (Families), 1:30-3pm
Parents and children explore dinosaur-land in Nature Playce. Unearth a real fossil to keep. \$6/child

Save the Frog Celebration Day

May 1, (Families), 1:30-2:30pm
To celebrate National Save the Frogs Day, make a toad abode for your backyard. \$5/child

**Pink Lady's Slipper Walk**

May 8, (All Ages), 1-1:45pm,
Roundtree Park.
Join a naturalist for a leisurely stroll to a natural display of wild orchids. FREE

Spring Bird Count

May 11, (14 yrs. & up), 7-9am
Assist park staff with the spring bird count for Annandale District Park. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. FREE

Celebrate Urban Birds

May 23, (Families), 1:30-2:30pm
Start a lifelong hobby with the fun of watching backyard birds. \$5

Snake and Turtle Feeding

May 31, (All ages), 1-2 pm
Enjoy a brief presentation and demonstration by our animal caretaker staff. At least one snake and two turtles will be fed during the demonstration. \$4

Hidden Pond Nature Center

8511 Greeley Boulevard
Springfield, Va. 22152 • 703-451-9588

CAMPS:**Nature Quest**

June 14-18, (3-6 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm
Learn about flora and fauna of the park. \$130.

Pohick Peepers

June 21-25, (5-7 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm
Be part of a camp similar to the Pohick Rangers but suited for the younger naturalist. Camp includes field study, crafts, games and stories. \$130

Creek Critters

June 28-July 2, (6-8 yrs.),
9:30am-12:30pm
August 23-27, 2:30-5:30pm
Explore the park's wetlands with an in-depth study of the animals. \$130

Wetlanders

June 28-July 2, (ages 8-10),
2:30-5:30pm
July 12-16, (ages 9-12), 2:30-5:30pm
Get wet and messy while exploring park features. Learn about reptiles, amphibians and other animals. \$130

**Groundbreakers**

July 12-16, (8-10 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm
Explore different sections of the park to survey the geology, flora and fauna. This is a hands-on, get-messy experience. \$130

Rockhounders

July 19-23, (6-8 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm
Be part of a team of junior geologists in search of rocks, minerals and other natural wonders. \$130

Wild, Weird and Gross

July 26-30, (8-10 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm
Delve into the some of the weird and gross aspects of the park's various habitats and creatures. \$130

Survivor Camp

July 26-30, (9-12 yrs.), 2:30-5:30pm
Learn to contend with the natural elements. Get tips on how to survive in the outdoors. \$130

Reptilian

August 2-6, (9-12 yrs.), 2:30-5:30pm
A new camp focusing on reptile habitats, reptile diets, reptile care and a reptile survey of the park. \$130

**Dragonflies**

August 2-6, (5-7 yrs.), 9:30am-12:30pm
Explore Hidden Pond Park's wetlands and the surrounding Pohick Stream Valley. \$130

Ponderings Camp

August 9-13, (6-10 yrs.),
9:30am-12:30pm
A week-long version of the popular school program with even more hands-on field study fun. \$130

Extreme Naturalist

August 23-27, (9-12 yrs.),
9:30am-12:30pm
Field surveys, journaling, and being at one with nature. (This means messy, not meta-physical). \$130

Pebble Pups

August 30-September 3, (4-6 yrs.),
9:30am-12:30pm
Take a close look at soils, rocks and minerals. Make fossils and pan for gold. \$130

Nature Quest-Indoor Wildlife

March 1, (3-6yrs), 10-11am
Learn about creatures that come into our homes uninvited. \$4

SPRING EVENTS *continued from page 14***Also at Hidden Pond****Wildlife Wednesday —
Crustacean Sensation**

March 10, (4-6yrs), 4:30-5:30pm

From crayfish to sow bugs, crustaceans get the royal treatment from our naturalist. \$4s

Ponderings-Animal Defenses

March 19, (6-10yrs), 4:30-5:30pm

A program in bad taste. Witness the amazing strategies of the stinkpot turtle, the acrobatic click beetle and the mighty American toad. \$4

Introductory Spring Wildflower Walk

April 10, 10:30-11:30am

Join Naturalist Jim for a leisurely walk in the Pohick Stream Valley to enjoy the flowers. FREE

Ponderings-Creatures of the Swamp

April 30, (6-10yrs), 4:30-6pm

Take an old-fashioned safari to the swamp. Catch and identify creatures of the depths. Dress to get wet and muddy. \$5

Ponderings-Turtles

May 21, (6-10yrs), 4:30-5:30pm

Naturalist Brian discusses local turtle species. \$4

Huntley Meadows Park

3701 Lockheed Blvd.

Alexandria, VA 22306 • 703-768-2525

Evening Wildlife Walk

March 6, (Adults), 5:30-7pm

Explore the Hike/Bike Trail in hopes of discovering calling frogs and owls, migrating waterfowl and American woodcock. Bring optics and a flashlight. \$6

Birding for Beginners

March 7, (12 years and up), 8-11am

Learn the basics. \$6

April 3, (adults). Learn about optics and field guides. \$6

Young Explorers — Rocks and Minerals

March 22, (6-9 yrs.), 3:15-4:30pm

Learn more about these Virginia resources. \$4

Eco-Savvy Expo

April 11, (Families), 12-4pm

Collect shade-gardening tips, rain garden and butterfly garden plant lists, wildlife brochures and everything you've ever wanted to know about attracting local native wildlife! FREE (small fee for some presentations)

Spring Birds and Bagels

April 17, (Adults), 8-11am

Search for warblers, thrushes, waterfowl and a host of other birds. \$8

Park Manager Walk and Talk

April 24, (Adults), 4-6pm

May 22, (Adults), 5-7pm

Share questions and concerns about the park as you walk with park manager Kevin Munroe. FREE

Wetlands Awareness Day

May 2, Noon-3pm

Enjoy an afternoon of wetland interpretation. FREE (small fee for some activities)

Wild Side Wagon Ride

May 16 and 23, (Families with children ages 6 and up), 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm, or 4:15pm

Take a 90-minute tractor ride with a park naturalist to the more inaccessible parts of the wetland. Look for and learn about songbirds, wildflowers, butterflies and waterfowl. \$6

Riverbend Park

8700 Potomac Hills Street

Great Falls, VA • 703-759-9018

Scavenger Hunt

During visitor center hours. Check out a scavenger hunt packet and follow the clues through the park. \$1

Fishing Fun Birthday Parties

Mid-May through September, (5-12 yrs.)

Bank fishing parties \$175, boat fishing parties \$250

Fly Fishing

(13 yrs. and up)

Introductory classes are offered throughout the fishing season. Visit the [Web site](#) for the schedule and register online.**Parent and Child Fishing by Boat**

June 10, 24 (All ages, children must be at least 30 lbs.), 6-7:30pm

Enjoy fishing from a jon boat. Follow the naturalist to favorite fishing spots on the river. \$20/boat

Children's Fishing Fun Derby

June 12, (5 yrs. and up), 10am-1pm.

\$7/child

Sully Historic Site

3650 Historic Sully Way

Chantilly, VA 20151 • 703-437-1794

Broom Making

March 6, 1-4pm

Visit the slave quarter to learn about brooms, then make one from broom straw to take home and use. \$10/broom

**Easter Egg Hunt**

March 20, (3-7 yrs.) 1-3pm

Bring your baskets and hunt for Easter eggs. \$5/child

American Life History Camp

March 31 – April 2, (7-12 yrs.) 10-1pm

See how the Lee family and the enslaved African Americans lived without conveniences such as electricity. \$25/day or \$70/three days

Celebrate Earth Day — Fragrant Herbs at Sully

April 22, (8-12 yrs.), 3-4:30pm

Join author and Master Herbalist Donna Pepperdine Evans to learn how herbs were grown and used during the Federal period. \$7/child