

**PLEASE
HELP US
FIND A
HOME
FOR THE
POTLUCK!**



This year, the Winter Potluck, one of Hollin Hills' favorite remedies for the winter doldrums, needs a temporary change of location, and the CAHH Board needs your suggestions.

The Potluck is traditionally held in February (often on the Sunday after the Super Bowl) at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Last year's event had to be postponed until March because of a church construction project. Unfortunately for us, the church is once again in the midst of an ongoing project with a completion estimate of the end of March.

The ideal spot for this event should be nearby and large enough to accommodate up to 150 people. Although the actual cooking is done elsewhere, there should be a facility for warming the lasagnas before they are served.

The CAHH has budgeted for a modest rental fee. Anyone with any ideas for a suitable alternative Potluck venue, please contact Barbara Jacobs, CAHH Board Member (Social Activities), at pnbjacobs@verizon.net or 703-660-6342.

REPORT: CAHH FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On December 4, 2013, the Fall CAHH Membership Meeting was held at Hollin Meadows School. A quorum (in person and via proxy) was in attendance. The following agenda items were discussed:

Introduction & Agenda Overview *Ron McCallum, President*

Ron noted that the agenda published in the December *Bulletin* would be observed. New business such as deer management could be raised on completion of the published agenda.

Arcadia Center For Sustainable Food and Agriculture *Guest Speaker: Pamela Hess*

The Center (<http://arcadiafood.org/>) is located at 9000 Richmond Highway in Alexandria on the historic grounds of Woodlawn Estate. It was started in 2010 by Michael Babbin, who also started Vermillion and numerous other restaurants in the Neighborhood Restaurant Group. Michael was looking for a way to obtain healthy, sustainable vegetables for his restaurants, so he started this Center. While the Center currently does not provide vegetables for The Restaurant Group, its current primary purpose is to provide food and food assistance to "food deserts" and "food swamps" (i.e., generally low income areas without healthy food choices). This helps combat obesity in lower income areas. They accept WIC and the new food stamp program. The Center has converted a school bus into a food stand to serve these neighborhoods. The Center's mission is threefold: sustainable agriculture, food access, and farmer training. Arcadia's demonstration farm and educational children's garden encompasses four acres, providing a sustainable model of agriculture to new farmers, students, and the public through hands-on community engagement. Through these programs, the Center is becoming a vital resource to surrounding communities, including Hollin Hills.

2014 House & Garden Tour *Tania Ryan, Co-Chair*

The 2014 House and Garden Tour will be held on April 26, 2014. There are currently 12 houses and gardens selected. There is a chance we may have a maximum of 13. Beth Reedy has designed a new logo, and the Committee is using it for "branding" in communications and signage for the event. The Tour Committee is on schedule, and may have enough donations to cover the expenses prior to starting ticket sales. The Committee is working on managing traffic on the day of the tour. Martha's Road may be designated a one way street during the Tour. There will be three gardens on display, with a water station at one of them. A lecture by the set designer for "Mad Men" is also planned at the Unitarian Church, close in time to the Tour.

Board Member Reports

- **Parks Report, Pam Williams.** Pam provided an overview of the results of the Parks survey administered recently by the CAHH. Response was good: 66 percent opened the survey; 33 per cent took it. The consensus was that, due to time and other limitations, it is becoming too difficult to maintain the parks primarily via volunteer hours, so other options need to be considered. Many survey respondents were willing to contribute funds to do so. Respondents also suggested new ways of volunteering, with continued oversight by Park Wardens. The CAHH is reviewing this recommendation, using a site called Volunteer Spot, <http://www.volunteerspot.com>, to coordinate these efforts. The survey respondents also encouraged the CAHH to continue to use scouts and schools to volunteer for parks maintenance. A Q&A period followed.
- **Membership Report, Hilary Ginsberg.** Hilary provided the following statistics regarding membership (*continued on page 2*)

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Ron McCallum	765-9134
Vice-President Patrick Kelly	768-2497
Treasurer Susan Kubbach	768-8154
Secretary David Rivera	944-6563
& Jaelith Hall-Rivera	944-6390
Membership Betsy Damitz	721-2002

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool open	
MVCCA Debbie Burns	768-2655
Social Barbara Jacobs	660-6342
Parks Allie Elder	965-1940

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST Judy Riffin	765-3025
Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471

(Also see "Hollin Hills Archives" below)

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

Chair Mike McGill	718-2090
Members Christine Kelly	768-2497
Jennifer Kirby	768-0355
Barbara Ward	765-8677
Patrick Kelly, CAHH Liaison	768-2497

HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE

Chair Rebecca Bostick	768-2240
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PARKS COMMITTEE

Chair open	
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HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

Published monthly since 1951 by the CAHH. The material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the CAHH Board or the editor.

Editor Barbara Shear	660-6543
Editorial Assistance Andrew Keegan	660-1004

Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles generally should not exceed 500 words.

Email or deliver your submissions to:

Barbara Shear
1820 Drury Lane (22307)
E-mail: barbshear@verizon.net
Phone: 703-660-6543

Send email submissions as attachments. Small ads or articles (1 paragraph) can be sent in body of email.

If you cannot produce computerized copy, try to find someone to submit it for you. As a last resort, type or print it clearly, leave in basket to right of front door, 1820 Drury Ln., and inform editor at 703-660-6543. No material will be accepted over the telephone.

Distribution: To replace a missing paper *Bulletin*: contact Eleanor Fina, 703-768-3174. To correct/change address contact Betsy Damitz, 703-721-2002.

HOLLIN HILLS ARCHIVES

The Hollin Hills Archives are part of the Special Collections and Archives of George Mason University. To contact the SC&A staff with research questions, use the following:

- For a general description of the Hollin Hills archives contents, go to http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollinhills.html.
- For questions regarding collections, hours, usage, duplications, or directions go to http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html.
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email speccoll@gmu.edu.

WWW.HOLLINHILLS.NET

Calendar of community events and information about our parks, the Design Review Committee, the National Historic Registry, and more.

CAHH Meeting *from page 1*

in CAHH: We have 320 members this year; we had 333 last year. There are 45 paper subscriptions to the *Bulletin*. Hilary thanked all of the Greeters, as well as Eleanor Fina, who makes all the Greeter packets.

• **Treasury Report & Proposed 2014 Budget, Susan Kubbach.** The budget for FY 2013 came very close to expected income levels. We did have more expenses this year due to higher park costs, mainly from storms, the added Oktoberfest social event, and the additional funds required for membership on the National Historic Registry. Members' questions regarding the budget focused on (1) where money comes from if we have a deficit (answer: funds come from CAHH cash reserves) and (2) whether CAHH events are restricted to members only (answer: not strictly in every instance, but a request to join the association is always made to non-members who show up). The 2014 proposed budget was approved by the membership unanimously.

Vote on CAHH Board Nominees

Review of the list of Nominees: Patrick Kelly, VP; Betsy Damitz, Membership; Barbara Jacobs, Social Activities; Allie Elder, Parks Liaison. No additional candidates stood to volunteer for any of these positions. The motion to accept was seconded, it was passed unanimously for the new CAHH Board Members.

The Deer Discussion

Numerous residents have been concerned about the number of deer inhabiting the neighborhood, with the level of concern being manifested in the very recent lively debate on the unaffiliated Hollin Hills Open Forum, first raised by Tom Fina on November 29. Ron summarized where things stood to date, noting that due to the short timeframe in which the issue has arisen, it has not yet been explored sufficiently by the CAHH Board, nor was there any chance to address it in the published agenda for this meeting. As a consequence, timely and fair notice of the controversial matter could not be given to the broader membership at large in time for the meeting.

Based on his quick investigation, Ron summarized some facts regarding deer management in Fairfax County:

- No firearms allowed, only bows may be used to cull deer in this part of county.

- Bow hunting on one's own property is not unlawful, but licenses are required and strict requirements must be met. The relatively small size of individual lots in Hollin Hills is probably not an attractive venue for qualified bow hunters.

- The CAHH's jurisdiction to authorize qualified bow hunters is limited to parks property; it does not include the property of Hollin Hills residents. Liability is a matter of concern.

- A county deer management program is currently in place in Huntley Meadows Park; it remains to be determined, however, what, if any, impact it will have on the deer population on the east side of Richmond Highway.

- Contraceptive stands must be implemented and/or approved by the State Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (not Fairfax County), whose natural political constituency is comprised of hunters.

- A pilot tick management program is in place in the western parts of the county. It is midway through a three-year study; new participants are not being admitted. Moreover, it is doubtful that this type of program would ever be implemented by the County on private property, such as Hollin Hills parkland.

Following the summarization, an opportunity was presented for discussion and motions. A motion was made to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to "take any measures necessary to reduce the deer populations in our area." Much discussion occurred, and then an amendment to the motion was offered which would ask the BOS to recommend options versus asking them to take "any actions necessary." Both the motion and the amendment to that motion were seconded and discussed at length. However, neither motion was approved by the Membership. The deer management matter was not resolved, leaving open the possibility of a special membership meeting where specialists in the subject matter could be invited to address the membership. The CAHH Board President proposed to reach out to the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) for recommendations that could be presented to the BOS.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56.

—Jaelith Hall-Rivera
CAHH Secretary

Quick Takes



HAPPY HUNDRED!

Noel Hemmendinger's many Hollin Hills friends and neighbors join in congratulating him on turning one hundred on December 25. He and his wife, Marjorie, were among Hollin Hills earliest settlers and have lived here since 1950.

POOL LOOKS TOWARD SUMMER

The Annual Meeting for the Hollin Hills Pool will be held on Saturday, February 1, 3:30pm, at the Sherwood Hall Library. Discussion will focus on the year past, committee elections, the 2014 budget, and pool plans for this coming summer.

—Rebecca Bostick, Pool Committee Chair

CANINE DISTEMPER ALERT

Abnormal behavior has been exhibited by raccoons in this area. Animal control recently collected five raccoons in the vicinity of Fort. Hunt and Namassin Roads. Tests showed at least one had canine distemper.

Canine distemper is highly contagious and potentially deadly for dogs. According to the ASPCA, "The first signs of canine distemper include sneezing, coughing and thick mucus coming from the eyes and nose. Fever, lethargy, sudden vomiting and diarrhea, depression and/or loss of appetite are also symptoms of the virus."

All dog owners should verify that their pets have current distemper vaccinations. If you see any of the symptoms listed above, take your dog to the vet immediately. Since canine distemper can also affect raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes, we are also asked

to be on the lookout for wildlife showing some of the same symptoms.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDERS

The annual Mt. Vernon area Christmas Bird Count is on Sunday, January 5. Everyone is invited, with beginners put on teams with more advanced birders. The group will meet at Claire Klusken's, 2602 Ryegate Lane, at 7am. Dress warmly, bring water, binoculars, and a scope if you have one. To participate or inquire, contact Dixie Sommers, dixiesommers@cs.com or 703-969-7931.

—Mary-Carroll Potter

CAROLING IN THE PARK

The annual caroling in McCalley Park that had been scheduled for Sunday, the 22nd, was postponed because of bad weather and the resulting mud underfoot. Rescheduled on Christmas Eve, it attracted an enthusiastic group of singers who, although not posing a great threat to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, nevertheless managed to start and finish most of their songs in unison, if not in complete harmony.

The Totaro family, Paige, John, Calla, and Magnolia, did a wonderful job of chairing the event. Having taken a leave of absence from the 2012 caroling merely to travel around the world for a year, the Totaros are now back for their second year as chairfamily. A big thank you to them and also to Jay Pascoe for providing the tree, Nila Patel for providing an electrical outlet for the lights, Bob Hale for channeling a most jolly Santa with a newly luxuriant, curly beard, and Judy Beelaert and Ron McCallum for CAHH support.

TOUR GET ACQUAINTED PARTY

Plenty of holiday cheer was shared by all as the 2014 Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour Committee hosted a kick-off party for committee members and homeowners to get acquainted, at Co-chair Tania Ryan's home on December 6. Tania also provided an update on the committee's progress to the CAHH at their December 4 meeting. (See ticket information on page 6.)

—Steve Costoff, Co-Chair

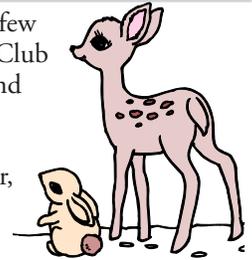
GARDENING AMIDST CRITTERS

After a hiatus of a few years, the Garden Club has been revived and already has many new members.

In November, an initial meeting was held at Mary-Carroll Potter's

home. Bad weather caused the cancellation of the December meeting, but the group plans monthly meetings with topics that will interest experienced gardeners as well as beginners and those in between.

Of great community interest will be the January 14 meeting at Kari Larson's house, 7316 Rebecca. A guest speaker from Green Spring Garden's Master Gardener Program will speak on gardening with deer and other wildlife. If you plan to attend, please contact Paige Conner Totaro at paugeconnertotaro@gmail.com since a large turnout is expected and space is limited. Join the club's email group at hhgardenclub-subscribe@yahoo.com.



A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

The following letter appeared in a slightly different form in the Forum recently. Board members felt it articulated a very important issue and asked that it run again in the Bulletin for the benefit of those who might have missed it originally. Your responses are welcomed and encouraged.

Last night I attended the meeting of the CAHH. I will admit that I came to see how the dreaded deer issue might shake out. But what I came away with was something else entirely.

I listened to our neighbors discuss the parks, what percentage of the neighborhood contributes dues, all the minutia of the things we take for granted. Because I'm new here I mostly stayed silent,

but I walked away with a few thoughts I wanted to share.

Most of the attendees were long-time residents of Hollin Hills. For decades they have done the often thankless task of keeping our parks up, organizing social events, and running the home and garden tours. We are all in their debt. But I couldn't shake the sense that we're failing as a community by leaving these tasks up to the few who raise their hands. It was a small picture of where we're headed as a country as people give up on civic engagement and withdraw into their own lives. It's always someone else's problem.

Many people in the region are transient and never put down roots. But the people in Hollin Hills (at least up in our part of

the community) are different than every other place where we've lived. If we newcomers don't find a way to contribute, we may lose something without ever realizing what happened.

We could stand to modernize our approach. While I would never dispute the value of printed media and in-person meetings, we could get far more people engaged online than we currently do. We need to find ways to leverage our options so that more of us give our time, our money, or simply become more engaged in discussions that don't involve deer. Anyway, just a thought from your newer residents. We look forward to meeting more of you.

—Matthew Baise

BOOK REVIEW

The Hollin Hills book group discussed *The Artist of Disappearance*, by Anita Desai, an Indian novelist, at the December 12 meeting.

In the three novellas, she writes of "...illusion and disillusion and the sharp divide between life's expectations and its realities...The stories illuminate ways in which Indian culture can nourish or suffocate." (*New York Times* book review).

"The Museum of Final Journeys" describes early stages of an Indian civil servant's career. He finds the decrepit rural outpost, where he deals with petitions concerning property claims, stifling and depressing; bugs in the food, filth and slime in bathrooms, heat and mosquitoes that keep him awake. He is numb with boredom until an old man shows him an abandoned estate said to be transformed into a museum. He finds falling-down rooms filled with beautiful prints, textiles, and art objects, and an old elephant chained in a bamboo grove. The old man wants government funding for the estate. The civil servant is excited at the prospect of giving his work purpose. Then the author "jumps" the story forward many years, when the civil servant looks back on his ordinary, lackluster career.

We were glad we read this book and enjoyed our discussion about it and the author's writing style. We liked "Translator Translated" best of the novellas. At a school reunion, Prema, a middle-aged Delhi English teacher, meets a classmate who is quite her opposite, with a high-powered, successful career in publishing. They agree that Prema will translate into English a book written in one of India's regional languages. Excited, Prema tries to reinvent herself as a translator, editor, and author. However, she makes some bad decisions and eventually concludes that she is merely "a tired woman going home from work with nothing to look forward to, who had a moment when a window opened...caught a glimpse of the open, sunlit world beyond," but then she saw "that window close and remain closed."

We appreciated the elegant metaphors and vivid, graphic language Desai uses to describe the characters who seek to achieve goals but somehow miss the moment and are left in sad, sometimes lonely lives, and how she compares what was with what might have been.

The next book group meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7, at 2pm, at

Elizabeth Egghart's home on Martha's Circle to discuss *American Dervish*, by Agad Akhtar. All are welcome to join us.

—Barbara Knight Katz

MUSIC MAN

If you can brave the winter cold, here are a few mostly free (unless otherwise noted) musical events you might enjoy.

- Sunday, January 5, 3pm, Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean: Madelle Duo with violinist Rachele Betancourt, cellist Madeleine Kabat, works of Mozart, Beethoven, Gliere, Kodaly and Halvorsen. www.madelleduo.weebly.com

- Monday, January 6, 7:45pm, Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St., Arlington: Tom Cunningham Orchestra, 16 piece big band open-to-the-public rehearsal. www.tomcunningham.com

- Friday, January 10, 8pm, Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr., Fairfax: Madelle Duo and Friends, Albert Hunt clarinet and Seyoon Yim piano, works of Mozart, Stravinsky, Kodaly, and Halvorsen.

- Sunday, January 12, 5pm, New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt: Big Band Tradition, 18 Piece big band celebrating vintage to modern jazz styling. (Another band that I play with. www.bigbandtradition.com)

- Monday, January 13, 7:30pm, Cafe Italia, 7395A Lee Hwy., Falls Church: Tom Cunningham Orchestra.

- Wednesday, January 15, 8pm, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria: School Street Ramblers (bluegrass) www.reverbnation.com/school-stretramblers

- Sunday, January 19 (3 events) 3pm, The Lyceum, Alexandria: Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Recital Series: Last Stand String Quartet: Dvorak, Prokofiev, Beethoven. www.eclipseco.org 7pm, Chamber Ensemble Master Class, American Youth Philharmonic www.aypo.org

- 7pm, Church of the Resurrection, 2280 North Beauregard St., Alexandria: Focus Concerts, Joe Crooksten and Tiffany Thompson (folk, singer/songwriters) \$15 advance, \$18 at the door. www.focusmusic.org

- Tuesday, January 21, 7:30pm, Episcopal HS, 3900 Braddock Rd. Alexandria:

National Chamber Players, Paganini Duet for violin and bassoon, Frolov Divertimento for two violins and piano, Mozart Quintet for clarinet and strings.

- Friday, January 24, 7:30pm, The Birchmere, Alexandria: Judy Collins with Kenny White (folk, singer/songwriter) \$55 (free closed circuit broadcast in bar).

—Tony Jordan

PLANNING & ZONING

Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area

In 2003, Fairfax County acquired title to the former Federal Reformatory (Lorton) that had been vacated. In 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved a plan to develop the site for residential housing. Many of the abandoned prison facilities remain available for adaptive residential reuse. The plan includes 181 new residential apartment units and 155 adaptations of existing units. Several new buildings would be provided for commercial purposes. The plan includes retaining several large open spaces and a church building. The Alexandria Company has long been involved, but the Elm Street firm signed on in September 2011 to build housing selling for about \$400,000 to \$600,000. A presentation was followed by debate over the adequacy of schools.

Automotive Title Firms

Disappointment was expressed that the former Sunoco station at Richmond Highway and Huntington Avenue has been sold to an automobile title loan firm. Formerly, the committee had concerned itself with Sunoco's plan to reopen it as a service station. The Consumer Affairs and Transportation Committees have both opposed the plan and the Planning & Zoning Committee voted 11-0 to concur with them. With nine title loan firms along Richmond Highway between Alexandria and Fort Belvoir, another one would hardly be a community improvement.

Green Energy Park

The Lorton Green Energy Park discussed in the November *Bulletin* was again discussed. Hauling Fairfax County trash south to Lorton down Silverbrook Road and other routes has long been debated and continues to be a problem with no solution in sight.

—Burt Kronstedt

Consumer Corner

No eager crowds have lined up to try to fill Kathy Seltzer's Consumer Corner shoes, but here are a couple of short pieces—examples of the many topics that fall within this category. Please send your own consumer ideas, information, complaints, or questions to barbshear@verizon.net for inclusion in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Always a Second Opinion

Here's a New Year's resolution every one of us should make: whenever possible, ALWAYS get a second opinion or a second price estimate on everything including home maintenance, medical procedures, and retail purchases. Three recent experiences back up this suggestion.

(1) For a home repair job, we received two price estimates covering identical work, both from reputable, recommended sources. However, one was about 80 per cent higher than the other.

(2) When our furnace died, I called the company we had used for years. Their salesman turned us off completely by talking disparagingly about 'going for cheap' while trying much too hard to sell us a complete top-of-the-line heating/AC system. The salesman from a second company politely explained how a simpler, furnace-only replacement costing half as much would suit our needs perfectly, since our AC is still working well. (Both companies had been recommended previously in the *Bulletin*.)

(3) A family member with no apparent

dental problems went for a routine yearly dental checkup and was told he needed two crowns and a root canal to the tune of \$5,000! A second dentist (reputable and recommended) said all he actually needed was one \$300 filling along with continued regular checkups.

Cheap is not always better, but getting more than one opinion gives consumers options to chose the solution most appropriate to their needs.

—Barbara Shear

Clear-Cutting by Dominion

As a longtime member of the Natural Resources Defense Council, I was astonished and dismayed to learn in its fall-winter news brochure that Dominion Power has been clear-cutting woods and forests in southern Virginia (and perhaps northern North Carolina, too) for biomass to produce electricity it sells to us, the consumers. Dominion has even leveled wetlands and plans to expand its tree-felling operation as a source of power-production. Such practices are contrary to accepted standards of conservation, which do allow biomass use of tree-tops, small limbs and such "junk wood" when legitimate logging takes place. I've let Dominion know I no longer want to contribute my usual monthly extra to its Green Power fund and protest strongly against its anti-conservation use of woods.

—Jo Ann Hersh



LET'S MAKE A LIST

of groups in HH and beyond for newcomers and longtimers, too

A new neighbor learned of a birding group from another neighbor recently, and she's thrilled to be connected. She loves the process, the people, and the coffee after.

I propose compiling a list of groups that we enjoy, in Hollin Hills and beyond, along with a brief description and contact information. People who start their own groups can add them to the list as well. I'm willing to organize the list, which would also be a good addition to the welcome packets given out to newcomers.

Years ago, with two young kids and no connections yet, I used the Directory to organize a play group. It was important to me, and my three-year-old and I also made a good friend through it.

Please send your information to me at marsilver@cox.net. I will collate your suggestions and submit them for inclusion in the *Bulletin*.

Marge Silverberg
marsilver@cox.net, 703-768-8895



RESTORING HUNTLEY MEADOWS

Huntley Meadows is one of the natural wonders of Fairfax County, featuring 1557 acres of woods and wetlands that are home more species of wildlife—aquatic mammals, waterfowl, songbirds, and insects—than any other site in the metropolitan area. It's also a botanical treasure, boasting aquatic, semiaquatic, and terrestrial plant species that are seldom found in such close proximity.

In colonial times the land belonged to the Mason family, but they sold it off piece by piece in the late 1800s. The larger tract was reassembled in 1925 by an entrepreneur who planned to build a dirigible base. That

dream went down with the Hindenburg in 1937, and the land was purchased by the federal government in 1940. They used it as an asphalt test site, an artillery range, an antiaircraft base, and finally a top-secret antenna farm before declaring the land surplus in 1970. In 1975, President Ford signed the land over to the people of Fairfax County for use as a park.

The central feature of this park is an emergent or hemi-marsh consisting of wetlands (average water level 3 feet, but with some deeper pools) that are approximately 50% open water and 50% vegetated (hence "hemi"). In this case the marsh filled up behind a beaver dam in 1978. The beavers are still around, but their

work has been partially undone by several major hurricanes and the unrelenting runoff from development in Kingstowne and along Route One. Stormwater carried an estimated six tons of sediment into the marsh, cutting its depth in half and threatening the habitat's diversity and productivity. Invasive plant and animal species soon followed.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has been looking for long-term solutions to these problems since 1992, with research by three different environmental consulting firms and input from 20 public meetings. Funding became available with the \$3 million bond issue approved by the voters in 2004, and (*continued on page 6*)

Restoring Huntley Meadows *from page 5*

after twenty years of planning, work began in April 2013. The park was reopened on December 3. The completed restoration work consists of several components:

- **An earthen berm**, 600 feet long and 5 feet high, that serves as a bigger and better beaver dam. It contains pipes that will allow park staff to raise and lower the water level at different times of year for the health of plants and animals.

- **A stormwater spillway** that allows excess floodwater to drain during large storm events, preventing it from overflowing the dam and causing erosion or failure during hurricanes.

- **Deepwater pools** (in this case, six to ten feet) that provide feeding habitat for otters and grebes, as well as refuges for fish and amphibians during droughts and freezes.

- **Expanded meadows** that will provide new habitat for grasses, wildflowers, birds, and reptiles.

- **Brush piles and loafing logs** Trees that were cut down during construction have been recycled on site to provide additional habitat for small mammals and birds, as well as logs where amphibians can haul themselves out to rest in the sun.

Similarly, sediment dredged from deepwater pools was spread across the expanded meadows to provide rich soils for wild plant species.

- **Expanded footprint** Raising the overall water level will double the size of the central pool, from 23 acres to 46 acres, and expand the wetland into the surrounding forest, creating new “flooded forest habitat.”

These restored wetlands are not specifically designed for stormwater control, but they provide valuable water quality services by filtering pollutants and allowing sediments to fall out of the water before it feeds into Little Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek. Park staff anticipate

that they will need to re-dredge the central pool every three to seven years, depending on conditions.

You should plan on visiting Huntley Meadows several times during the year, to take advantage of its changing plants and wildlife. The park is open from 11 until 4 daily (closed Tuesdays) from December through February; from March through November the hours are 9 to 5 (11 to 5 weekends, closed Tuesdays.) Visit their website for a schedule of guided nature hikes and special events: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/calendar.htm>

—Paul B. Phelps

2014 HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR ■ TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS

The ticket prices for the 2014 tour will be \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day. Ticket sales will begin in January. Sponsorship levels are as follows:

DOGWOOD	\$1,000 - includes listing on website, 6 complimentary tour tickets
MAGNOLIA	\$500 - includes listing on website, 4 complimentary tour tickets
AZALEA	\$250 - includes 4 complimentary tickets
SUPPORTER	\$125 - includes 2 complimentary tour tickets
FRIEND	\$50 - Includes name listed in brochure ^o

(More about the Tour on page 1)