

Down on the Farm

Spring 2012 Newsletter



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President’s Message

By Jim Rausch, President of The Friends of Kinder Farm Park

It’s Spring and the Friends’ volunteer efforts are in full bloom like all of nature at Kinder Farm Park. We have been busy since January with restoring the Kinder Family farmhouse, returning it to a condition similar to when it was built in 1925. We’ve held two Saturday work parties each month with 25 to 30 volunteers at each. In April we started one work party per month so there are ample opportunities left for you to get involved. The turn-out for these “work parties” has been so good, we are using some of our volunteers to help re-paint and re-carpet the World War II House on the Hill (hereafter referred to as the Friends’ House). These work parties are actually fun and when we leave at mid-day we are tired but feeling good about what we’ve accomplished.

When finished, the farmhouse will be decorated as it would have been during the Depression era, and furnished with period pieces. It will then be open to the public for tours at designated times. The Friends’ House will be used for a small office, storage of the many Friends’ supplies, and for working on crafts and projects in conjunction with our annual Fall Harvest Festival and other Friends’ events.

On Saturday, April 14th the Volunteer Center for Anne Arundel County held its spring volunteer fair at the Kinder Farm Park Visitors’ Center and over a

dozen volunteer organizations were represented. Turnout by the public looking for opportunities to “make a difference” was very good. The Friends of Kinder Farm Park had a table and we signed up a number of new volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers since so much of the important work we do, like our big



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President's Message (Cont.)

annual fundraiser, the Fall Harvest Festival, owes its success to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. Likewise, our Historical Society is doing important work related to Anne Arundel County farm history and farm life in the 20th century and would welcome more folks to assist in its' endeavors. Another volunteer opportunity involves the tremendous overgrowth of invasive weeds and vines in the Park. We have started a program of "Weed Warriors" to mechanically eradicate these noxious weeds in order to save healthy trees and shrubs and keep our Park looking beautiful.

Whether you are a Friend or not, and are looking for a chance to "give back", please think about volunteering a little of your time to Kinder Farm Park. This place is a wonderful resource for the entire family and through your volunteer efforts; we can and are making it even better.

4H Livestock Club

By Mitzi Hardy – 4H Club Leader

The Kinder Farm Park 4H Livestock Club members are certainly off to a busy spring full of 4H activities and events. Several members participated in the Hagerstown Cattleman's Association Livestock Skill-a-thon. This is an annual event where the 4Her's are quizzed on many agricultural topics including animal breeds, equipment, feed and hay, cuts of meat and wool quality to name just a few. The 4Her's will be participating in the next Skill-a-thon at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May.

The annual 4H Anne Arundel County Variety Show took place at Baldwin Hall on March 31st, and this year the 4H club had two groups performing different songs and skits. One of the groups received the Reserve Champion ribbon for their song compilation – A Tribute to our Soldiers.

The 4H kids are now busy preparing for the many new animals that will soon arrive at Kinder Farm Park. In addition to the 2 little dairy heifers that have already arrived they are expecting: 8 new market lambs, 2 new breeding sheep, 5 new goats and 7 little piglets. This year the 4H club will be setting up an incubator in one of the barns to hatch our own chicks, and the kids are also bringing in about 40 new baby chicks that will become a part of our laying flock. The club's breeding sow - Penny Sue - will be leaving the farm this spring, and hopefully the 4Her's will be able to purchase a new breeding sow in January of 2013 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.



This June brings a very exciting trip to Tanzania for one of our college age 4Her's, Joseph Degreenia. Joseph was selected to be a member of a group of Maryland 4Her's who will work with 4Her's from Finland as part of a team that will work with local farmers, paint a school and share the 4H ideals with local children. Joseph will share his adventure with our club members' upon his return.

Many field trips to local farms, presentations from our alum and other college age 4Her's and speakers are also being planned for the spring and summer. With the 2012 show and fair season soon beginning the 4H kids at Kinder Farm Park will be busier than ever.

Antique Tractor Aficionados!

By Rod O'Brien, Member of the Antique Tractor Club

If you don't read anything else in this whole newsletter READ THIS (and you're missing out on a whole lot of good news, goings on and just plain good to know stuff going on Down On The Farm if you don't read the rest of this newsletter). A new year of tractor driving is on us, and boy do we have a lot of things going on that we'll be show casing our ole tractors at this year.

We open with the Memorial Day Parade in Glen Burnie, and then roll on into the Behind the Scenes Tour on May 21st at Kinder Farm Park. Next is the Independence Day Parade (more affectionately known to us kids as the 4th of July) in Severna Park, then Fall Harvest Festival, and we cap the year off with the Jingle Bell Hay Ride.



So where am I going with all this enticing information you ask? We are looking for a few good men and women, and we're not the United States Marine Corp, nope, we're looking for people that want to drive, work on, and just plain enjoy these antique tractors of ours. If you've never driven an old tractor but have a hanker'n to learn, we'd love to spend some time with you; teaching you and passing on our love for these historic work horses. If you've driven tractors in the past and have been looking to rekindle that excitement, you're at the right place for that too. The Friends of Kinder Farm Park are always looking for new (and old) blood to help us get our fleet of old tractors out where people can see them running around and maybe entice them to come visit us

Down On The Farm and maybe, just maybe, plant the seed of appreciation for the good ole days of agriculture and life on the farm before tractors with air-conditioned cabs, Sirius Radio, GPS, and on-board beverage coolers.

If I've peaked your interest and you're ready to tackle our old iron just drop your name and contact information off with any of the Rangers or volunteers at the Visitor Center and I'll give you a jingle. Thank you for taking the time to read my rambling and letting me try to tickle that antique bone hidden way down deep that you didn't even realize you had; but now that you're aware of it the only thing left to do is to exercise it - and what better way to feed that hunger for nostalgia than to climb aboard an old tractor and drive around the farm!

Glad to see you again and look forward to hanging out with you Down On The Farm

Behind The Scenes Tour: A Pirate Adventure

By Lisa Willis, Cap'n of the FokFP Farm Educational Committee

Aye, matey! Come aboard for a pirate adventure at Kinder Farm Park, hosted by the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Educational Committee. Take a hayride tour through the park and learn about all the activities/clubs KFP has to offer. This year, our young mates will enjoy a pirate themed hayride and have fun collecting coins at each stop along the tour.

Pre-registration is required. Tickets are on sale now at the Visitor Center. Individuals are \$3; and the entire family is \$5. The Gate fee is waived with purchased ticket. Hayride, snacks, and refreshments are included in price. The adventure will "shove off" from the Visitors Center on Monday, May 21st from 6-8pm. Friends members are free, but please still pre-register. Come join the fun and see what treasures you can find! For more info call Park Office 410-222-6115 or email lisa23willis@gmail.com.



The Clearing of Duck Pond

By Roy Fielder, member of the FoKFP Farm Educational Committee

This past winter the Park Rangers and Friends of Kinder Farm Park volunteers worked together to reclaim Duck Pond. Duck Pond is located near the windmill just down the hill from the Visitor's Center. Over the years, this pond became overgrown with small trees and briar thickets and was completely inaccessible. Volunteers spent four months clearing out overgrown brush and in the process helped create a wildlife habitat for fish and waterfowl. A small floating dock has been placed in the pond and members of the public can now enjoy sitting near the water or spending some time at catch and release fishing.

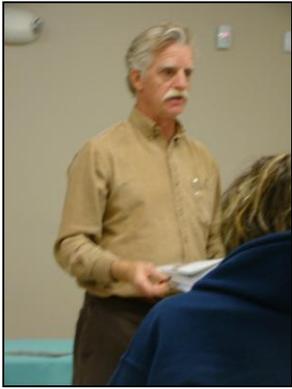
Park volunteers also planted a seedling from the famous Wye Oak tree near Duck Pond. The Wye Oak was the oldest white oak tree in the United States, believed to be more than 460 years old, before it toppled in a storm in June of 2002. The Park is fortunate to have a seedling from such a magnificent specimen. Future plans for the pond include planting water lilies and other native species. Please come visit Duck Pond during your next visit to Kinder Farm Park!

Come and enjoy Duck Pond!



Speaker Series Kicks-off

By Michele Rose, Vice President of the FoKFP and Chairperson of the Speakers Committee



On Monday, March 26th, the Friends of Kinder Farm Park kicked off our 2012 series of lectures with a presentation by Terry Cummings, who is the Maryland Manager of Advocacy for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He explained the deteriorating condition of the Chesapeake Bay, made worse by the tropical storm that occurred over the winter, as well as the unusually warm temperatures.

Paul Spadaro, President of the Magothy River Association was present in the audience and provided a lively addition to the program as they both discussed their viewpoints on what is needed to improve the condition of our local waters.

There were bills being discussed and debated in the Maryland legislature at the time of this lecture, which brought in the political aspects of the problem.

The 25+ people in attendance left with a newfound interest in how they could contribute to improving the bay and our local waters as individuals.

Our next speaker is scheduled for Monday, June 25th at 6:30 pm in the Harvest Hall of the Visitors Center. The guest speaker will be Dana Limpert who is a conservation specialist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and whose area of expertise is “Bats”. Please join us for an exciting evening included a power point presentation.

Ms. Limpert will be covering a lot of information, including their habitats and diseases that threaten them, conservation methods and how bats can be beneficial to our local gardeners.

Children are always welcome at these programs which are free to members of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park. A \$5.00 fee is charged for others in attendance, which may be applied that evening toward the purchase of an annual membership to the Friends. There are no gate fees for those attending. Pre-registration is required. Light refreshments will be served.

Beginning Tree Identification Course

WHEN: 10 AM to Noon on Saturday, June 23, 2012

WHERE: Visitors Center at Kinder Farm Park

COST: \$1.00 (for materials)

INSTRUCTOR: Bonnie Pavlak, Master Gardener

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- Learn to distinguish between simple and compound leaves, leaf arrangements, leaf shapes, and leaf margins
- Learn to use the [Leaf Key to Common Trees in Maryland](#)
- One hour class work, one hour outside identifying trees
- Participants should be ages 16 and older
- Class size limited to 25 people
- Call the Park Office at 410-222-6115 to register



Bunk’s Ponderings

By Farmer Bunk and Sponsored by the FoKFP Farm Education Committee

The Animal/Plant Log Entries

The following are the entries found in the new Animal/Plant Log (kept at the park office reception desk) for February, March and April where visitors and staff recorded their encounters with animals and plants while in the park:

Date	Seen By	Animal/Plant	Location	Details
2/12/2012	Nolley Fisher	Red Fox	Wooded area behind gardens	Running deer trail
2/20/2012	Mike Lowman	White Tail Deer – 2point Buck	Field in front of Visitors Center	Grazing in field
2/24/2012	Nolley Fisher and Justin Ramos	3 pair of Hooded Mergansers	At Hidden Pond	3 drakes and 3 hens
2/17/2012	Dick Mason	Small Red Fox	Maryleborn Rd. near Swim Club area	Racing across yard toward park
3/12/2012	Lisa Shore	Purple Dead Nettle	Farm complex	In bloom
3/12/2012	Lisa Shore	Gill over the Ground	Farm complex	In bloom
3/12/2012	Lisa Shore	Speedwell	Farm complex	In bloom
3/17/2012	Justin Ramos	Snapping Turtle	Gali Sanchez	Helped turtle cross street
3/19/2012	Lisa Shore	Common Chickweed	Farm complex	In bloom
3/19/2012	Lisa Shore	Rock Cress	Farm complex	In bloom
3/19/2012	Kevin Keller	Buttercup	Farm complex	In bloom
4/4/2012	Mike Lowman	Blue Bird	Picnic area by the Comfort Station	In large tree on the edge of the area

Kinder Farm Park Joins the Wood Duck Initiative

As a result of the Farm Education Committee efforts Kinder Farm Park is now a participant in the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative (MWDI). MWDI’s mission is to enhance Maryland’s Wood Duck population and to generate a greater appreciation of the wetland habitats in which they live by advocating and demonstrating a “Best Practices” approach in artificial nest box programs. Though the wood ducks are not an endangered species their breeding habitat, hollow trees are dwindling and this program provides protected nesting boxes.

The park has received and deployed three boxes, one of which has been placed on the wetlands off Jumpers Hole Road. On April 1st Ranger Nolley reported that there were already three down covered eggs in the box, and several days later Roy Fielder checked and the count had increased to 16. The mother duck will sit on the eggs for around 30 days until they hatch. As soon as the eggs hatch, the ducklings will climb up to the opening in the box and jump out.



If you are interested in monitoring the nest boxes contact Ranger Nolley at 410-222-6115.

Bunk's Ponderings (Cont.)

Visit Me at the Visitors Center

Come see me, Farmer Bunk at the Visitors Center next time you're at Kinder Farm Park. He keeps a notebook and pen in his overalls pocket where you can jot down your thoughts and questions about the farm and I'll reply in the next *Bunks Pondering* column. If you have a question for me and can't make it to the Visitors Center you can still send them to:

Bunk's Ponderings Down on the Farm 1001 Kinder Farm Park Road Millersville, MD 21108	OR	Email: mike_lowman@verizon.net with the Subject: Bunk's Ponderings
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Don't be surprised if I show up at other Kinder Farm Park events in the future.

Come Visit the Kinder Farm Educational Garden!!

By Roy Fielder, member of the FoKFP Farm Educational Committee

This year marks the second season for the highly successful Kinder Farm Educational Garden (formerly the Sprout Garden) located next to the tobacco barn. The Educational Garden is tended to by volunteer families and children who plant a variety of plants that would have grown in a depression-era vegetable garden. This year's plantings will include leafy greens, peppers, peas, turnips, radish, tomatoes, carrots, beets, squash, onions, gourds, pumpkins, peanuts, herbs and sunflowers.

Other unusual plantings include broom corn and cotton. Broom corn is not actually corn that would be eaten, but is a type of sorghum that is used for making brooms and whiskbrooms. Its fibrous seed branches may be as long as 36 inches and the plant itself can grow anywhere between 6 to 15 feet tall. Cotton is an amazing plant to see up close. Once it reaches maturity and dries out, the pods will split open exposing the white cotton inside. Once completely dry, the ball of cotton can be harvested.

Visitors to the garden are welcome to walk into the garden along the main path and view all the plantings up close. If you are interested in helping with the educational garden next season, please contact Roy Fielder at fielders3@verizon.net. The educational garden season runs from March through September each year.



Plowing the hard way!



Educational Garden is off to a good start

Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program

By Nolley Fisher, Ranger at Kinder Farm Park (Bluebird photo taken at Kinder Farm Park by Martin McCann)

The Eastern Bluebird, whose beauty seems an extravagance, is a member of the Thrush Family and often popular with the bird watching community. Bluebirds often live in meadows and openings surrounded by trees that offer suitable nesting holes. Bluebirds are economically important as they consume large quantities of destructive insect pests. Unfortunately, until the 1970's, Bluebird populations suffered from pesticide use, loss of trees with cavities, and increased competition from other cavity nesters especially European House Sparrows and Starlings. Nevertheless, this trend was reversed in the late 1970's with the founding of the North American Bluebird Society. Since the introduction of the NABS, many concerned Bluebird watchers have built and placed specially designed nesting boxes in suitable habitats.



Since the early 90's Kinder Farm Park, has joined this nesting box movement, and is currently monitoring 65 boxes throughout the park. The Kinder Farm Park Bluebird monitoring program utilizes volunteers to monitor the boxes throughout the breeding season. Each volunteer records data on nest status, adult activity, and young status for their respective boxes throughout the entire nesting season (Early March – Early September) The nesting data is then compiled at the end of the breeding season and results are evaluated for future seasons. There are currently three open monitor positions available at Kinder, if interested, please contact Ranger Nolley Fisher at (410) 222-6115.

Beekeeper's Corner: It's All About the Queen

By Lindsay Barranco, Member of The Friends of Kinder Farm Park



A beehive will not function properly without a queen bee. The queen is truly the glue that holds the hive together. There is only one queen to every hive. She is the largest bee in the hive, dwarfing the thousands of female worker bees and the larger male drone bees. Many queens can live to be a few years and in that time she will lay up to one million eggs. The queen's role is to mate and then lay eggs within the hive. When a beekeeper receives a mated-queen (meaning she is already fertile and will begin laying eggs right away), she typically is delivered in the mail via postal service and is contained in a small wooden box with a screened front, along with a few female worker bees who tend to her every need. Once the beekeeper places the small wooden box in the hive, she will eventually crawl out of the box within a few days time

and hopefully, will be accepted by the thousands of worker bees who are drawn to her pheromones (chemical scent).

If a hive has an unmated queen, she will take her "mating flight" which is a flight outside the hive where she mates with one or many male drones bees in mid-air. This is the only mating flight she will make during her lifetime. Once mated, the queen returns to the hive and begins laying eggs within each cell that the worker bees have prepared for her. During her lifetime she will be fed and cleansed by her attendants while she devotes her lifetime to egg laying.

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Beekeeper's Corner (Cont.)

If the hive senses that the queen is weakening, the worker female bees will “make” a new queen bee by taking royal jelly, a substance that the workers produce, and inserting it in a cell containing a specially chosen bee larva. This larva will eventually develop into a new queen bee, who then breaks out of the cell and fights with the old queen to the death. This same process of making a new queen also occurs if a queen should die suddenly.

To learn more about the fascinating honey bee, you may want to consider joining the Anne Arundel Beekeeper's Association (AABA). The AABA sponsors a “short course” which is a 5 session course on how to get started with beekeeping. While this year's course has already occurred, it is never too late to begin thinking about taking the course next year. The course typically begins in March and ends in April, and is held at the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville. For more information on the class, please see the Anne Arundel Beekeepers Association's website at www.aabees.org. If you are interested in keeping bee hives at Kinder Farm Park, please call the park office at 410-222-6115.

Protecting Your Garden

By Rita Custer, Kinder Farm Park Kitchen Gardener and Member of the Chartwell Garden Club



(Note from the editor: This article was intended for the last issue of the newsletter and was inadvertently left out and I apologize for the oversight.)

It's fair to say we had a warm, weird late fall and winter in the garden. No one can say for sure how these warmer than usual temperatures are going to affect our gardens. But one thing is certain, there is nothing we can do about it. Gardeners depend on seasonally cold temperatures to prevent plants from getting too far along in their development.

The too warm days of December and January can make our spring flowering shrubs and early bulbs think it's really spring. Since the flower buds of azaleas, rhododendrons, cherries, dogwoods, and early magnolias are already in production, a blast of arctic air can be damaging if the buds are too far ahead of the usual bloom time. Some gardeners are seeing the first green sprouts of daffodils poking up and worry about freeze damage. Fortunately the foliage of early bulbs is quite tough and a cold snap will slow down further emergence.

Damage to flower buds can't be predicted since Mother Nature holds all the cards. Gardeners can improve outcomes by providing adequate water and protective mulch using a variety of materials including compost, composted or shredded leaves, or pine straw, which help to maintain a constant temperature.

Help With the Fall Harvest Festival

By Michele Rose, Vice President of the FoKFP and Chairperson of the Fall Harvest Festival

The Fall Harvest Festival Committee has begun meeting to plan the Fall Harvest Festival this year which will be held on Saturday, October 13th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. As always, we are looking for new ideas to make the event even better. We are hoping to add more activities for older children and adults this year as our main focus has always been younger children.

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Help With the Fall Harvest Festival (Cont.)

The committee would love to have more people to help us plan and implement the festival. If you are interested, we are meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Harvest Hall of the Visitors Center.

Everyone can help now by donating new or gently used items that could be used as prizes for bingo. In addition, we are collecting jeans and long-sleeved shirts, as well as accessories, such as belts, hats, scarves, etc., that can be used to make scarecrows. Items may be dropped off at the Visitors Center weekdays between the hours of 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, except on Tuesdays when the park is closed or on weekends 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. If a tax deductible receipt is needed, please leave your name, address and phone number with the items so that we may provide that for you.

On the day of the festival, at least 450 volunteers are needed for a variety of positions. We are always in particular need of additional adults, so please mark your calendars to reserve that date. We make every effort to make it a fun experience for all. Volunteer sign-up forms will be available in the next newsletter.

For further information or questions, please contact Michele Rose at kfpfriend@verizon.net or by phone 410-544-8302 or 443-618-9555.

Antique Sawmill Club

By Tom Lahdelma, President of the Antique Sawmill Club

The Antique Sawmill Club Members have remained active in spite of the fact that our saw blade has been out for repairs since last November. It just wasn't cutting right and we deemed it dangerous. After a large dead tree near the WWII House was cut down by an outside contractor, we moved the logs to the sawmill staging area.

We spent many hours on our next project, the renovation of the Kinder Farm Park Demonstration Shed into a suitable woodshop area. Paul Downy designed a drop ceiling track made from wood. It was amazing! We used fiberglass ceiling panels to help insulate the building. We also insulated the walls, made wood storage racks, upgraded electric outlets and lights, and Paul made new doors from old storm doors (you couldn't buy doors that good).

The saw blade came back in early April and it cuts perfect. So we are back in business at the mill.

Last fall we had a request to show a group of kids from the Children's Guild where lumber comes from. After watching us cut logs and answering many questions, we gave them some wood to build a canoe frame. I believe that it is almost ready for sea trials. Good job!

The Antique Sawmill Club usually meets on Wednesday morning at 9:00 and finishes around lunch. New members are always welcome. Please contact the Park Office for details (410) 222-6115.



Apprentice Gardens Start a New Season

By Anne Nourse, Master Gardner Project Leader & Friends Member

This growing season's program began on March 21 with 8 families and 13 children registering for the Apprentice Garden Program sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension Office A.A. County Master Gardeners. The families and attending Master Gardeners heard about the topics covered in our program, garden etiquette, filled out forms for emergency contacts and signed permission slips for picture taking and publication.



Children took home 3 cups filled with lima beans each to have different watering schedules. In the following week's discussion, all agreed that the beans that were watered when necessary did the best growing. Beans, pumpkins and watermelon seeds were also planted in peat pots for transplanting on a later day into the Apprentice Garden.

To date, after amending the raised family plots with Leaf Gro, top soil and vermiculite, radishes, carrots and lettuce have been planted as well as potatoes, onions and broccoli. Beans planted from the first session in March were just planted in the Bean Tunnel area along with seeds in between spaces with the hopes of having a full covering of beans around the structure. This season has been very unusual due to the highs and lows in the temperatures. Radish leaves are peeking through the soil.

Another clean-up was held in April to prevent rabbits from entering the garden and enjoying the early leaves of our crops. Two dads and one family came to dig a 15- foot trench to place fencing underground and cover it up to keep rodents from digging tunnels into the garden. One of those dads also was able to get Plexiglas that he fitted into the bulletin boards so announcements could be posted.

A special talk on vermiculture was given by a community gardener that began with involving the children in the steps performed for making a compatible area for the red worms to live in and make compost. We all learned how they decompose discarded leftover vegetable peelings into nutritious amendments for soil to use for plantings. Afterward, individual worm jars were created by layering a clear plastic soda pop bottle with sand and potting soil topped with Leaf Gro and moist leaves covered with black construction paper. Families will be observing the worms throughout the coming weeks before placing the worms in their gardens.

Now that cool weather crops have been planted, depending on the weather, warm weather crops will be added to each family garden plot in May. Other speakers are being lined up for future meetings with the Apprentice Garden Families.

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Unity Garden Grant for this growing season to support green materials such as seeds, fertilizer, Leaf Gro, worms, and other materials. The Master Garden Program continues to be grateful for all the support we receive from the AA Co. Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of Kinder Farm Park, especially the Sawmill Club.

Please stop by and see how our garden is growing. We are located in the first two plots as you enter the Community Garden area designated by a neon yellow bulletin board and owl perched on a post guarding our garden.

Weed Warriors Clean-up!

By Bonnie Pavlak, Master Gardner and FoKFP Member

Marvel has the Avengers and Kinder Farm Park has the Weed Warriors. Since last year, this dauntless group of volunteers has been battling invasive plants and vines at the park. Wearing protective clothing, gloves, hats and armed with pruners the group gathers at least once a month to launch their attack under the direction of Bonnie Pavlak. If you are interested in joining the Weed Warriors you can contact Bonnie by email at bonnie@pavlak.net or leave your name and contact information at the Visitors Center.

Weed Warriors in Action!



Wooden Nickel Park Comes to Kinder Farm Park

By Grace Fielder, Spokesperson for Wooden Nickel Park



WNP Board Member Bob Kane clearing trail. The large boulder to the left will “tower” over children.

We are excited to have Wooden Nickel Park at Kinder Farm Park. This is the first to be built. You may have noticed in the past weeks that brush, and invasive species are being removed in the wooded area near the Visitors Center.

Wooden Nickel Parks are unique facilities that are being built for children between the ages of 2 1/2 to 7 years. They are designed to connect children and their families with nature. With each visit we will grow their confidence. When you provide a Wooden Nickel Park, you provide an opportunity for the Wooden Nickel participants to increase their comfort level with nature.

Our Spokesfrog is Woodside. The Wooden Nickel Park Logo is Symbolic: Frog the frog inhabits over 75% percent of the world. Trees and Grasses: are shade and habitat to man and creature. Water: is the essence of life.

We would like to thank the Anne Arundel County Department of Parks and Recreation and in particular the Kinder Farm Park manager and staff. Also we want to thank the Friends of Kinder Farm Park for welcoming us so warmly. Together, we can connect children and their families to nature.

Upcoming Event:

September 8, 2012: First Annual Wooden Nickel Park Race ages 15 to 99 will be awarded prizes. Day will also have many fun activities for children and adults. For information or to sponsor contact Grace Fielder gfielder@woodennickelpark.org or 301-483-3171

Wooden Nickel Park™, Inc.,
PO Box 334
Simpsonville, MD 21055-0334
www.woodennickelpark.org



Wooden Nickel Park Logo

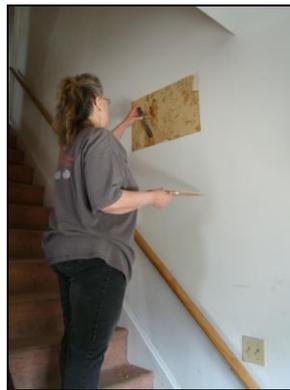
A Reflection of Community Spirit

By Mike Lowman, Chairman of the FoKFP Historical Society

In the last issue of *Down on the Farm*, I reported on the wonderful turn out of volunteers and progress that was made at the two Saturday work parties we held at the Kinder Farmhouse. We have had five more work parties since, the work has expanded to not only include the restoration of the farmhouse, but also preparation of the WWII House up the hill as the new headquarters for the Friends of Kinder Farm Park. The amazing thing about all the work parties has been the response, there have been between 20 and 30 volunteers at each work party and everyone pitches in to get the day's jobs done.

There is a core of volunteers that consistently show up, however, we always have new faces that join in, whether they are individuals or a group that heard about the project. They are volunteers of all ages and skill levels, with the ones that know teaching the others how. Between regular work parties some of our volunteer spend their own time working at the house. This project is truly a reflection of community spirit that sustains Kinder Farm Park.

Work Party Photos



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A Reflection of Community Spirit (Cont.)

If you would like to join in the project, there are work parties scheduled for the following Saturdays from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM: June 16th, July 14th, and August 18th. No experience necessary, just bring yourself in work clothes, hard-soled shoes and a hammer (if you have one). Donuts, bagels and beverages (hot and cold) are provided.

If construction is not your thing, we still need to furnish and decorate the house to resemble a depression era farmhouse and we need volunteers to help research, find, acquire and set-up the items needed to accomplish that goal. If you are interested in assisting with those aspects of the restoration, come to an FoKFP Historical Society meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Center Conference Room or contact Mike Lowman via email at mike_lowman@verizon.net or phone 443-867-0586.

Something for Everyone!

The many organizations that call Kinder Farm Park home provide unique opportunities that offer something for everyone. The following is a listing of those organizations along with a brief description about each:

- **The Friends of Kinder Farm Park** is the park advocacy group that supports Kinder Farm Park through fund-raising, advising Park staff as to the kinds of programs and projects they feel represent a Maryland Farm in the 20th century, and volunteer activities. Among the many activities that volunteers participate in and enjoy are the annual Behind the Scene Tours, the Fall Harvest Festivals, and the Jingle Bell Hayride. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Visitors Center's Harvest Hall. See their web site at <http://www.kinderfarmpark.org/>.
- **The Kinder Farm Park 4H Livestock Club** puts 4-H's slogan "Learn By Doing" in practice by assisting with the care of the livestock that reside at the Kinder Farm Park. The club members collect the chicken eggs and feed the chickens, turkeys, cows, and rabbits. Some members also own animals such as pigs, sheep and goats that live at the park. However, owning an animal is not a requirement to be a 4-H member. For additional information see their web site at <http://www.kinderpark4h.org/>.
- **The Farm Education Committee** is a standing committee of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park with the mission of promoting agricultural education at the park. For the past two years it has sponsored the Educational Garden which involves local families in planting and growing traditional farm crops. The group also organizes the yearly Behind the Scenes Tour. For additional information contact Lisa Willis at lisa23willis@gmail.com or contact the Park Office for details 410-222-6115.
- **The Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society** is another standing committee of the Friends with the mission to portray the agricultural history of Anne Arundel County. Currently the group is heading up a multi-year project to restoring the first floor of the Kinder Farmhouse to resemble a typical Depression-era farmer's home. Additionally the society is the curator for the artifacts and farm history that have been gathered. They are always glad to have new volunteers; the Historical Society generally meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Center Conference Room.

(continues on next page)

Something for Everyone! (Cont.)

- **The Antique Equipment and Sawmill Club** is a group that maintain and operate the farm's authentic sawmill. They constructed cabinets, counters and tables for the park's new Visitors Center from wood they cut and milled. The club usually works at the sawmill on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 AM and finish around lunchtime. New members are always welcome, contact the Park Office for details 410-222-6115.
 - **The Antique Tractor Club** supported by the Friends of Kinder Farm Park, members maintain and operate the park's collection of antique tractors. They provide the popular hayrides at park events and drive in local parades representing the park. Please contact the Park Office for details 410-222-6115.
 - **The Chesapeake Forge Blacksmith Guild** operates the Kinder Farm Park Blacksmith Shop and offers an excellent opportunity to learn a new skill. The Guild meets every Monday night from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. and on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the park. For additional information see their web site at <http://www.chesapeakeforge.org/>.
 - At the **Quilters Guild** monthly meetings each person brings their own projects. If someone needs help, they all pitch in and assist. Members have various skill levels in a variety of techniques and welcome visitors and new members. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM in the Kinder Farm Park Visitors Center.
 - **The Community Gardening Program** consists of about 125, 20' X 30' gardening plots. More than 100 gardeners rent plots each year for \$40/plot to grow a variety of fruits, vegetables, legumes, herbs, and flowers. Please contact the Park Office for details 410-222-6115.
 - **The Apprentice Garden** is a program teaching eco-friendly, sustainable basic vegetable gardening skills to families, and is sponsored by the University of Maryland Extension Office Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners. For more information on this program, please contact Anne Nourse via email at aonourse@verizon.net or call 410-721-2723.
 - **The Kitchen Garden** near the park farm house is maintained by volunteers of Chartwell Garden Club. They hold their meetings on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church on Benfield Road in Severna Park. Guests are welcome.
 - **Weed Warriors** under the capable direction of Bonnie Pavlak, a Master Gardener; these volunteers gather at least once a month to attack the invasive vines and plants at the park. Please contact the Park Office for details 410-222-6115.
 - **The Woodland Gardens** are a beautiful and tranquil area that volunteers have established in a wooded area near the park trail. It is an area with benches where you can rest in quiet surrounded by native plants and enjoy nature. This group of volunteers gathers periodically to maintain and enhance the area. Please contact the Park Office for details 410-222-6115.
-

2012 FoKFP Winter Photo Contest Winners



Landscape: *Blustery Day* taken by Wendy Crowe



Fauna: *Winter Hawk* taken by Wendy Crowe



People: *Enjoying the Park* taken by Cindy Myers



Flora: *Crocodile* taken by Michael P. Martinez

If you would like to view all of the entries in the Winter Photo Competition visit the Friends of Kinder Farm Park website at <http://www.kinderfarmpark.org/WinterPhoto.htm>. See page 19 for information about the Spring Photo Competition.

Shopping and Savings

Friends of Kinder Farm Park Gift Shop

Location: Visitors Center in cases next to the Harvest Hall entrance doors

Hours: Every Saturday from 12:00 to 2:00 PM, also open during special events

Come visit our Gift Shop! Many unique and interesting items for sale including handmade wooden animal puzzles by Dick Sharp, note card prints by local artist Lynn Reed, Activity Books, Stuffed Animals, Caps, Visors, Mugs, Mouse Pads, Animal Magnets, T-shirts and many more items.

Shopping and Savings (Cont.)

Merchants Discounts to FoKFP Members

We wish to thank and encourage you to shop the following vendors that offer the indicated discounts to the Friends of Kinder Farm Park (show membership card):

The Wild Bird Center – 20% (see advertisement on page 18)

568 G Governor Ritchie Highway
Severna Park Plaza Shopping Center
Severna Park, MD 21146
Phone: (410) 647-2453
www.wildbird.com/franchisee/sev/home

Anne Arundel County Farm and Garden (Farmers Co-op) – 10%

155 8th Ave. N.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Phone: (410) 766-8400
email: AACOFarmLawnGarden@yahoo.com

Country Feed and Gardens and Pets – 10%

865 Annapolis Road
Gambrills, MD 21054
Phone: (410) 923-0960
www.countryfeedandgarden.com/

Your Ultimate Backyard Nature Store

The Wild Bird Center
of Severna Park

We specialize in:

- Bird Baths
- Bird Houses
- Bird Feeders
- Binoculars
- Books
- Weathervanes
- Puzzles
- Pole Systems
- Earrings
- Indoor Fountains
- Garden Flags
- Windchimes
- Nite Lights
- Mail Boxes
- Deck Clamps
- Squirrel Proof Feeders
- Shepherd's Hooks
- Suet Feeders
- Relaxation CDs

Eastern Bluebird

Unique and Exciting Gifts

Come visit us for fascinating products you can only find here - Plus practical expert advice.
M-F 9:30-6 • Sat 9:30-5:30 • Sun 11-4 • Park Plaza • Severna Park • 410-647-2453

Many Products Made in USA

THE WILD BIRD CENTER

20% OFF
Any Large Bags of Seed
(20 lbs. or more)

Cannot be combined with any other offers

Expires on August 16, 2012

THE WILD BIRD CENTER

20% OFF
Any Item

Excludes Optics, Seed and Suet. Cannot be combined with any other offers

Expires on August 16, 2012

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park



2012 Photo Competition

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park are holding an amateur photography competition for people of all ages. A \$35 gift card will be awarded to the photographer of the winning photo in each of the following four categories:

Flora, Fauna, Landscapes and People

Photos must be taken within the boundaries of Kinder Farm Park and reflect the beauty of the Spring season.

- The deadline for entries is: June 18, 2012
- A panel of judges will select one winning photo from each category, and winners will be notified by email or phone
- For competition rules and entry instructions:
 - See “Rules and Entry Instructions” on the next page
 - Visit our website at: www.kinderfarmpark.org

PHOTO COMPETITION RULES AND ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

1. The categories for this photographic competition are: **Flora** (flowers, trees, plants, etc.); **Fauna** (all animals including fishes, birds, etc.); **Landscape**; and, **People** in Kinder Farm Park.
 2. Entries must be taken within the boundary of Kinder Farm Park during the Spring Season: March through June 2012).
 3. Entrants may submit up to a total of four photos in the competition, either as digital images or prints in color or black and white.
 - Photographs submitted in digital form, with a maximum of 10mb per email.
 - Photographs submitted in print form should be no larger than 8" X 10".
 4. This competition is intended to encourage amateur photography in our county parks. Photography is just one of the many activities enjoyed by park visitors. Contest entries will not be accepted from professional photographers.
 5. All entries must be original work and must not have been previously published. The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photos entered and must have obtained permission of any people featured in the entries.
 6. **Each entry must be marked with or accompanied with an email that includes:**
 - **The photographer's:**
 - **Name and address,**
 - **Telephone number, and**
 - **Email address.**
 - **A description of where and when the photo was taken.**
 - **Which category each photograph is being entered (only one per photo)**

Note: Personal details will only be used for the purpose of administering the competition and will not be published or provided to any third party without your permission.
 7. Entries can be submitted in two ways:
 - By email to: FOKFP1@gmail.com - with subject line of "Spring 2012 Photo Competition"
 - By mail to:

Spring 2012 Photo Competition
1001 Kinder Farm Park Road
Millersville, MD 21108
 8. **All entries must be received by Monday, June 18, 2012.**
 9. No entries can be returned and proof of posting is not proof of receipt. The organizers accept no responsibility for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post.
 10. All entries will be judged by a panel of judges who will select the best photograph in each category. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence can be entered into.
 11. By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules.
 12. By entering the competition entrants grant the right for The Friends of Kinder Farm Park to display the photographs at Kinder Farm Park, publish and exhibit the submitted photographs in print or on their website.
-

Tough Choices

By Bill Offutt, Park Superintendent

Here at Kinder Farm Park, our staff, Friends' Board and volunteers have to make decisions regarding how best we manage this valuable resource. The Recreation and Parks Department gives us some guidance but at the end of the day, we sometimes have to make choices that don't please everyone. Kinder is unique in that there is nowhere else in our department with a farm with a 4-H Livestock program quite like ours.

Our 4-H kids have both breeding and market projects. We set limits on how many animals of each species can be kept at the farm. This is determined by the carrying capacity of our pastures and barns. Much of what we have learned was through trial and error as well as recommendations from experts from the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. This group of agricultural educators oversees 4-H programs for the state and establishes rules and guidelines as well as expectations for their participants.

Kinder Farm Park is many things to many people but one of the things that we are not is a "petting zoo." Sure many of our animals are cute and people fall in love with them. However, it should be remembered that this is still a working farm. It costs a great deal of money, work and time to manage these livestock. At the end of the day, a breeding project which is not producing offspring is a deficit. We are not an old folk's home for livestock. When feed and vet bills stack up, someone has to pay them. That animal is also taking up space for another viable project.

Our 4-H club recently had to make a really tough choice regarding one of its projects. The kids weighed the options and voted accordingly. The decision that they made, while difficult, was the right one for the farm.



Friends of Kinder Farm Park (FoKFP) 12 Month Calendar

May 2012

- 9 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 12 — Work Party at the Kinder Farmhouse from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, to volunteer, contact Mike Lowman either by email at mike_lowman@verizon.net or phone, 410-760-0736
- 17 — Publish the Spring Newsletter, *Down on the Farm*
- 20 — Antique Tractor Club appearing in the Glen Burnie Memorial Day Parade
- 21 — Behind the Scenes Tour from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, pre-registration required, free to FoKFP members, \$5 for non-members (will be applied to membership if you join at the event)
- 23 — Fall Harvest Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Center Harvest Hall

June 2012

- 13 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Center Harvest Hall
- 16 — Work Party at the Kinder Farmhouse from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, to volunteer, contact Mike Lowman either by email at mike_lowman@verizon.net or phone, 410-760-0736
- 18 — First Call for Summer Newsletter Articles
- 18 — Deadline for the 2012 FoKFP Spring Photo Competition
- 20 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Center Conference Room
- 23 — Beginning Tree Identification Course from 10:00 AM – Noon in the Visitors Center Harvest Hall, cost \$1.00 for materials, class size limited to 25 people, register at the park office or call 410-222-6115
- 25 — Friends Speaker Series at 6:30 PM in the Visitors Center Harvest Hall, speaker Dana Limpert who is a conservation specialist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and whose area of expertise is "Bats". Pre-registration required, free to FoKFP members, \$5 for non-members (will be applied to membership if you join at the event)
- 27 — Fall Harvest Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 30 — Start of the 2012 FoKFP Summer Photo Competition

July 2012

- 4 — Severna Park Independence Day Parade
- 11 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 14 — Work Party at the Kinder Farmhouse from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, to volunteer, contact Mike Lowman either by email at mike_lowman@verizon.net or phone, 410-760-0736
- 18 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 21 — Deadline for Summer Newsletter articles
- 25 — Fall Harvest Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall

August 2012

- 8 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 15 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 16 — Publish Summer Newsletter
- 18 — Work Party at the Kinder Farmhouse from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, to volunteer, contact Mike Lowman either by email at mike_lowman@verizon.net or phone, 410-760-0736
- 22 — Fall Harvest Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall

September 2012

- 8 — First Annual Wooden Nickel Park Race, ages 15 to 99 will be awarded prizes. The day will also have many fun activities for children and adults. For information or to sponsor contact Grace Fielder at gfielder@woodennickelpark.org or phone: 301-483-3171
- 12 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 12 — First Call for Fall Newsletter Articles
- 17 — Deadline for the 2012 FoKFP Summer Photo Competition
- 19 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 26 — Fall Harvest Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 29 — Start of the 2012 FoKFP Fall Photo Competition

October 2012

- 10 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 13 — Kinder Farm Park Annual Fall Harvest Festival from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 17 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 24 — Fall Harvest Committee Follow-up Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 27 — Deadline for Fall Newsletter articles

November 2012

- 5 — Tentative date for the final 2012 Friends Speaker Series at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall, speaker to be announced
- 14 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 14 — Publish Fall Newsletter
- 21 — Last FoKFP Historical Society Meeting for 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room

December 2012

- 1 — Jingle Bell Hayride from 10:00 AM – Noon, preregistration required, \$3 fee, FoKFP can use their free Hayride passes in lieu of the fee but still need to preregister
- 10 — First Call for Winter Newsletter Articles
- 12 — FoKFP Annual Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 17 — Deadline for the 2012 FoKFP Fall Photo Competition

January 2013 FoKFP membership fees are due

- 6 — Start of the 2012 FoKFP Winter Photo Competition
- 9 — FoKFP Annual Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 16 — 1st FoKFP Historical Society Meeting for 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 26 — Deadline for Winter Newsletter articles

February 2013

- 13 — FoKFP Annual Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 13 — Publish Winter Newsletter
- 20 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room

March 2013

- 2 — Volunteer Banquet at 4:00 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 11 — Deadline for entries in the FoKFP 2013 Winter Photo Competition
- 13 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 18 — First Call for Spring Newsletter Articles
- 20 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 24 — Start of the 2013 FoKFP Spring Photo Competition
- 27 — Kick-off meeting for the 2013 Fall Harvest Festival Committee

April 2013

- 10 — FoKFP Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall
- 17 — FoKFP Historical Society Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Conference Room
- 20 — Deadline for Spring Newsletter articles
- 24 — Fall Harvest Committee Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Visitor's Center Harvest Hall

Down on the Farm is a publication of The Friends of Kinder Farm Park

President: Jim Rausch

Vice President: Michele Rose

Treasurer: Joe Miller

Secretary: Chris Mowry

Newsletter Editor: Mike Lowman

Please visit our web site:

<http://www.kinderfarmpark.org/>

