

Friends' Focus Spring 2013

Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI)

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) exists to support the staff, the programs, and the vision of the Ansonia Nature Center.

ANSONIA NATURE AND RECREATION CENTER STAFF

Director: Donna Lindgren, Assistant Director: Alison Rubelmann,

Rangers: Wendy Sabol, Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski, Martin Wigglesworth;. Custodian: Jami Condon.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-736-1053

Welcome New Members! Joan Bettencourt, Karen R. Buturla, Robert A. Havlena, Andrea Hojnacki, Basil Hwoschinsky, Todd & Paige Jokl, Yanbin Grace Liu, Marina Tomashevskaja.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU:

Monetary donations: Animal care: Mary Babu (\$25); Anthony & Pamela Bilotto (\$50); Jill Bishop (\$200); James & Ethel Capinera (\$25); Bruce Fitzback (\$15); Betty Laurella (\$40); Paul & Doris Leek (\$100); Nancy Roberto (\$20); Salvatore & MaryLou Valenti (\$25); Scholarship Fund: Joan Bettencourt (\$25); Randall B. Chapnick (\$100); William Damsky (\$50); Jeff & Martha Devine (\$25); GiveGreater.Org (\$164.96); James Heating Oil, Inc. (\$50); Anne Martin (\$40); Michael & Pamela Mellitz (\$50); Elisabeth Moore (\$100); Dale & Heather Pettengill (\$10); William Velms (\$25); Trail work: John & Joanna Saffo (\$50); In memory of John Adzima: Virginia Fainer; In memory of David Kempa, funding a program on snakes: Zoë Beck.

Other donations: Michelle Avenia (audio system); Ken Belardinelli (security); Michael Bouchard (CT Archaeology: Exploring Our Past exhibit); Don Cirkot (natural history field guides); Pat Evans (energy conservation measures); Sondra Harman (snow shoveling after blizzard); Lamotex (poster preservation); Roman Mrozinski, Southwest Conservation District (Redwing Pond assessment); Lois Rosenberg (outdoor heating pad); Debbie & Mike Ruderman (suet & bird seed); Peter Rzasa (news clipping services); Millie Sholtys (natural history binder work); Martin Wigglesworth (security, trail work), George Wooster (engraved paperweights); Kevin Zak (snow shoveling after blizzard); Anonymous (night vision security camera).

Winter 2012-13 program presenters: Dr. Jonathan Weinbaum, SCSU (Paleobiology, Dec. 15); Dave Connelly, Russ Zelanin, and Martin Wigglesworth (Ice Fishing, Jan. 19); Tara Cook Littman (Real Food, Jan. 20); Dr. Miranda Dunbar, SCSU (Bat Chat, Jan. 26); Jim Turecek (Fishing the Mid Connecticut Shoreline, Feb. 2); Dr. Rebecca Silady, SCSU (GMO Seminar, Feb. 23).

Winter Calendar of Events mailing crew: Joan Bettencourt, Donna Giusto, Elizabeth Laurella, Norma Jean Moore, Millie Sholtys, Anne Smith, Jan Wade, Rich Wade.

Winter Nature Days: Jessica Goggins.

Martin Luther King Day at the Peabody Museum participants: Kathy Gambacini, Wendy Sabol, Jessica Sulkowski, Jan Wade, Rich Wade, Martin Wigglesworth.

Birthday party presenters: Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Rich Wade.

Reception desk duty: Donna Giusto, Carol Henshaw, Norma Jean Moore, Bonnie Pelaccia, Pauline Sholtys, Frances Turecek, Rich Wade.

Administrative assistance: Christine Boulay, N. J. Moore, Michelle Piombino, Pauline Sholtys.

Trail work: Gary Cohen; Peter Szewczyk and Scouts Matt Cafaro, Ryan Cafaro, Joe Szewczyk, and Zach Thomas; Austin Turecek; Marilyn & Geoffrey Turner.

Wild animal rescue & transport to other rehabbers: Sondra Harmon, Mary Jenkins, Alison Rubelmann, Wendy Sabol, Marlene Sandel, Dawn Sotir, Kevin Zak.

Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered friends by: Bonnie Alexander, Marcia Cohen, Jami Condon, Jessica Goggins, Jordan Hamuka, Sondra Harmon, Doris Leek, Bonnie Pelaccia, Michelle Piombino, A Place Called Hope, Lois Rosenberg, Dana Serna, Kevin Stochmal, Kevin Zak, & AHS Life Skills students & mentors. Also thanks to Katharine Jackson, DVM, & Bethany Veterinary Hospital for humane animal services; Thomas A. Milos, DVM, & Shakespeare Veterinary Hospital for wildlife medical attention; & James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital.

And thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our lights on, our toilets flushing, our walks shoveled, & much more!

From the President's Corner:

Martin Luther King Day:

On January 20 and 21, 2013, three Nature Center staff members and three FANCI volunteers reached out to approximately 550 parents and children at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy of Environmental and Social Justice at the Peabody Museum in New Haven. The children made a simple astronomy craft including recycled material as a tool to teach about the night sky with four constellations. Meanwhile, information on the Nature Center and the Nature-Based Pre-School at the Redwing Pond House was given to the accompanying adults. MapleFest and Earth Day:

Check out the Calendar of Events for information on the upcoming MapleFest (March 2) and Earth Day Celebration (April 27). Suggestions, input, and volunteer help are always welcome at these events.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed not only at major events, but also daily during normal business hours at the Nature Center's reception desk. We also need help at the Nature Store during programs and other events. And if you have a talent for organizing, we still greatly need a Volunteer Coordinator. We also need birthday party presenters, to whom we offer a stipend. Please stop in at the Nature Center or call us at 203-736-1053 for further information.

Rich Wade, FANCI president

Redwing Pond House Preschool

On May 11th, from 11:00-3:00, the Redwing Pond House Preschool will be hosting our 2nd Annual Spring Fair. We will have many family friendly activities including face painting, arts and crafts, children's games, and a visit from "Mother Nature"! There will be an assortment of vendors and crafters including handmade personalized gifts, jewelry, and more. We will also have an exciting demonstration by local K-9 units, as well as other live animals. Bring your appetite and enjoy some pizza and something from our Bake Sale. You can also pick up some herbs, vegetables, and flowers for your garden beds—or as a Mother's Day gift—at the Plant Sale.

If you are a vendor interested in renting table space, please call Nicolette at 203-306-8256. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

Jacqueline Lema,

Director/Head Teacher, Redwing Pond House Preschool

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE VII The Standing Committees

Amendment: Section 2: The Director of the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center or designee will be a member of all standing committees.

Amendment: Section 3: A programming committee will be appointed whose duties will be to plan, host and arrange for public educational programs and annual events.

Amendment: Section 4: A publicity and information committee will be appointed whose responsibilities will include issuing press releases, preparing articles for publication, distribution of posters and flyers, and maintaining a press book

Amendment: Section 5: A service committee will be appointed whose duties will include coordination of volunteer services.

Amendment: Section 6: A membership committee will be appointed whose duties will be to keep updated files and current lists of all FANCI members, donors and mailing lists.

Amendment: Section 7: A committee will be appointed to stock merchandise and maintain the Nature Shop located at the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center.

ADD: Section 8: A Redwing Pond House Committee will be appointed to include the Director/Head Teacher of the Redwing Pond House nature-based preschool who will meet monthly prior to the FANCI executive board meeting. Responsibilities will include oversight of the pre-school finances and staff and to aid the Redwing Pond House staff in carrying out the program's goals and objectives.

ADD: Section 9: Each standing committee shall report to the executive board at the monthly meeting.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will meet to compile a slate of nominees for FANCI officers to be elected at our annual meeting in June. Committee members Pat Evans, Ali Rubelmann, and Wendy Sabol can be called at the Nature Center at 203-736-1053 or emailed at ansnaturectr@ansonciact.org.

Naugatuck Savings Bank customers can help the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center by voting in the Community Awards Program!

Help the Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation give away \$50,000!

Each year, the Foundation receives numerous requests from local charities and non-profit organizations to assist them in meeting their funding needs. They are asking their customers to help them decide where the money will go. It's simple....

You vote for the local non-profit organization of your choice. The Community Awards Program is open to each Naugatuck Savings Bank customer to cast one vote. Voting will take place from January 2 through March 31, 2013. The Foundation will tally the votes in April 2013.

The Foundation will donate a proportional share of the \$50,000 to each local non-profit that receives at least 1% of the votes. (The maximum award is \$5,000 per organization.) In addition, there will be a special award of \$500 to 6 randomly selected eligible organizations that receive less than the required 1% of the votes.

Make your vote count! Please pick up a ballot at the Ansonia Nature Center or at any Naugatuck Savings Bank branch, complete all the required information on the ballot, and drop it off at any of the bank's branches or mail it to Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation, 251 Church Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770. Or vote online at naugatucksavingsbank.com.

Party with the Animals and the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc.

Four educational birthday party themes to choose from:

Awesome Amphibians (Seasonal)

Bird Brains

We Love Mammals

Reptiles Rule!

2 hour party includes: 15 minute set up (parent/FANCI)

45 minute educational program (FANCI)

45 minute cake/ presents (provided by parent)

15 minute cleanup (parent/FANCI)
Fee for family-level members \$130.00, non-members \$155.00

For more information please call (203) 736-1053

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center meet at the Nature Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. All members of FANCI and interested folks are invited to attend.

Nature Center Wish List: Boardwalk Extension • Suet Cakes • Black Oil Sunflower Seeds • Natural History Fall Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Outdoor Classroom and Viewing Deck • Bird Feeder Repairs • Empty Bread Bags for Pet Waste Cleanup • and VOLUNTEERS for Filling & Monitoring Bird Feeders • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Presenting Topical FANCI Birthday Parties • Garden Grooming • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Invasive Plant Species Management • Poster Design & Distribution • Reception Desk Duty • Nature Shop Cleaning & Sales

Redwing Pond House Wish List: Clorox Wipes • Paper Towels • Facial Tissues • Copy Machine Paper • Art Paper (large white) • Sand for Ice on Sidewalks • Paper Napkins • Liquid Dish Soap • 4 Cookie Sheets • 4 Dish Towels • Parchment Paper • Grocery Store Gift Cards • Bird Seed • Epson Printer Ink Cartridges 126 & 127 (Black & 3-Color) • Potting Soil • New Compost Bins • Funding for Classes

Mailing List Update (Spring 2013)

Help us save trees, reduce landfill, eliminate junk mail and update our mailing list! Please fill in this form and mail it to us at Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401 to let us know if you wish to remain on our mailing list.*

This notice does not apply to FANCI members or active volunteers.

Name: _____

Address: _____

() Please KEEP ME ON your mailing list (check label for any corrections needed)

() Please REMOVE my name from your mailing list.

*OR call us: 203-736-1053, or e-mail: ansnaturectr@ansoniac.org (use subject Mailing List). If you'd rather have e-mail notices when we update our calendar and newsletter, let us know that too! Thank you!!!

Friends' Membership Form Spring 2013

___New ___Renewal ___I'd like to volunteer

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

___\$15 Individual ___\$100 Business/Organization

___\$25 Family ___\$150 Individual Life

\$35 Sponsor \$250 Family Life

\$75 Class/Troop

Dues unpaid for a year past renewal date will result in canceled membership.

Make Checks Payable to:

Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI)

10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401

Gift Form (no membership included) Spring 2013

Amount: \$ _____

Animal Care Other (please specify)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Checks Payable to: Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI),

10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401

The Friends' Focus is published seasonally by the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI) as an information link between FANCI and its members.

Editors: Donna Lindgren, Pauline Sholtys.

Mailing: Carol Henshaw, Rich Wade.