



Friends' Focus Spring 2014



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.

THANK YOU! Monetary donations: Zoë E.R. Beck (in memory of David J. Kempa); Randall B. Chapnick; Margaret W. Dyer (in memory of Robert Hurd); Allen & Jo-Anna Holden; Deb Illian; Mr. & Mrs. David Kehmna; Darren Klitnick; Sharon & Bob Maler & Lyla; Corrine Minto; Norma Jean Moore; Chandra Prasad; Nancy Roberto; Jay & Joanna Saffo; Joan Thomas; Rich & Jan Wade.

Other donations & services: Michelle Fry (rabbit & guinea pig supplies; timothy hay, etc.); H3 Pet Supplies (guinea pigs & gift card); Cindy Hager (litter and pellets for small animals); Karen Myers (animal crate); Clio Nicolakis (dog cleanup bags); Lois Rosenberg (animal supplies); Seymour Middle School Audubon Club (bird seed); Maria Stockmal (bird food); Joan C. Sweet (suet cakes, plastic bags for cleanup); Joan Thomas (pheasant hide & book).

Winter 2014 program presenters: Kari Doering (Gluten-Free Cooking, Jan. 11), Peter & Barbara Rzasa (Natural History Hike: You've Got Gall, Feb. 22), Bob Carruthers & Andy Poniros (Winter Astronomy, Mar. 8), Mike Polletta & Jeremy Zolan (Geology 101, Mar. 23), Andrea Schmitt (Arts & Crafts Workshop, Mar. 29).

Birthday party presenters: Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Michelle Piombino, Dawn Sotir, Rich Wade; and also Anne Smith for party prep.

Winter 2014 Calendar of Events mailing crew: Joan Bettencourt, Kari Doering, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Alison Rubelmann, Millie Sholtys, Dawn Sotir, Fran Turecek, Rich Wade.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Social Justice & Science Day at the Peabody Museum: Kathy Gambacini, Wendy Sabol, Laura Schultz, Rich Wade, Kyle Waldo, Viola Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth.

Administrative assistance: Michelle Avenia, Carol Henshaw, Sylvia Horowitz, Christian & Elizabeth Krysinski, Corinne Lydem, N. J. Moore, Michelle Piombino, Pauline Sholtys, Jan Stevens, Peter Tuccio, Frances Turecek.

Reception desk duty: Carol Henshaw, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Bonnie Pelaccia, Pauline Sholtys, Jan Stevens, Frances Turecek, Rich Wade.

Trail work, shoveling, cleaning, & litter patrols: James Fourtin, Mike Karolkowski, Christian & Elizabeth Krysinski.

Wild animal rescue & transport to other rehabbers: Stefanie Reyher, Alison Rubelmann, Wendy Sabol, Dawn Sotir.

Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by: Bonnie Alexander; Gary Cohen; Marcia Cohen; Jami Condon; Corin Danielecki; Lisa Dickal; Kari Doering; James Fourtin; Jordan Hamuka; Mike Karolkowski; A Place Called Hope; Lois Rosenberg; Andrea Schmidt; Steven Schmidt; Rich Wade; Susan Wilson; & AHS Life Skills students & mentors. Also many, many thanks to Katharine Jackson, DVM, & Bethany Veterinary Hospital (humane animal services); James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital; & Shary Parker, DVM (support & care of our wildlife and helpful animal ambassadors).

And thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our lights on, our toilets flushing, our plowing and shoveling, and much more!



New Members: Lance & Darlene Bane, Tifani & Ron Horowitz, Sharon & Bob Maler, Charlotte Marxo, Basil Petrov & Chandra Prasad, Andrea Schmidt, Joan M. Thomas, Monica Torres, Samuel & Betty Tuccio.



in partnership with
GIVE LOCAL AMERICA!

The Great Give is an annual New Haven area giving event organized by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. This year's Great Give, the fifth, starts at midnight on May 6 and ends at noon on May 7. It will once again encourage giving with up to \$125,000 in local matching funds, plus additional matches from a national pool through Give Local America! You can make donations to the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center through The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven at giveGreater.org. Remember the date, and help the Nature Center!

Friends' Membership Form Spring 2014

New Renewal I'd like to volunteer

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

- \$15 Individual
- \$25 Family
- \$35 Sponsor
- \$100 Business/Organization
- \$100 Class/Troop
- \$150 Individual Life
- \$250 Family Life

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

Checks Payable to:
Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI)
10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401

Gift Form (no membership included) Spring 2014

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 Redwing Pond House Preschool has embraced the snowy weather with days spent animal tracking, playing, and exploring the wonders of snow and ice both in and out of the classroom. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to tap a maple tree with Wendy from the Nature Center as well! How exciting to see the sap flow from the tree, watch it boil down over a cozy fire, and taste the delicious, sweet syrup over ice cream! What an amazing experience!

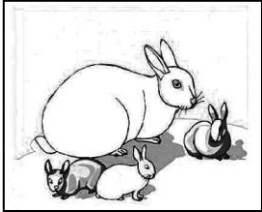
We are anxiously awaiting the magic of Spring to begin and witness the new life around us on the trails and in our gardens... We have looked through our seed catalogs and are planning our garden and preparing to begin planting seeds in our greenhouse. We will also be growing many items to sell at our Spring Fair! Choosing our seeds, planting, tending, and watching them begin to sprout is always exciting for the children and their teachers!

Be sure to come by our fabulous Spring Fair on Saturday, May 17 from 11 am to 3 pm. The day will be full of great entertainment, tasty baked goods, an incredible plant sale, local vendors, and more! It is a wonderful way for a family to spend the day together...we hope to see you there!

We will be offering Summer Camp for 3-5 year old children, and we are currently accepting applications for the new school year—although we are filling up quickly! Please call us at 203.734.7974 for more information about any of our programs or special events.

Happy Spring from the RWPH Preschool!
Jacqueline Lema, Director/Head Teacher
Redwing Pond House Preschool

General Mailing List Update (Spring 2014)



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!!!

Ion Bank Foundation 5th Annual Community Awards Program



Ion Bank customers—you have a chance to help the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center earn up to \$5,000 by voting for us in Ion Bank's Community Awards Program!

This program will donate a proportional share of \$50,000 to each local non-profit that receives at least 1% of the total votes. There will also be a special award of \$500 to 20 randomly selected organizations that receive less than 1% of the votes. One vote per customer. Voting will take place through March 31, 2014. Vote online at <http://ionbank.com> or visit one of Ion's 17 branches. If you have any questions please call 203.729.4442 or toll free 877.729.4442, or speak to any of Ion's branch staff members.



From the President's Corner:

NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: We welcome Wendy Sabol as the new Assistant Director of the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center as of February 19, 2014. Wendy has been with the Nature Center for over 10 years, serving as the senior Staff Ranger. Many of you know Wendy as a hike leader and from her participation in our major events, care of our "ambassador" animals, and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. She has taught environmental education classes both at the Nature Center and at the local schools, and has been a grant writer with the Friends.

FANCI BYLAWS: New changes have been made to the bylaws since the last Friends' Focus (Winter 2014). We need you to help the FANCI Board to make things happen! FANCI members can help by volunteering to serve on a Friends' Committee such as: *Events Committee:* Coordinates with Nature Center staff to plan and execute educational and fundraising events. *Publicity Committee:* Issues press releases, prepares magazine articles and publications, distributes posters and flyers, and maintains a press book. *Service Committee:* Coordinates with the Events Committee to staff and stock the Nature Store. (Other committees are contained in Article IX, FANCI Bylaws)

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2014: Our annual celebration will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 10 am to 4 pm. Mark your calendars! Volunteers are always welcome; call the Nature Center at 203-734-8034.

Rich Wade, FANCI president



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**
- REPTILES RULE!**
- WE LOVE MAMMALS**



- 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.



Nature Center Wish List: • Heavy Duty Weedwhacker for Trail Work • Crosscut Shredder • Boardwalk Extension • Suet Cakes • Black Oil Sunflower Seeds • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Outdoor Classroom & Viewing Deck • Bird Feeder Repairs • Empty Bread Bags for Pet Waste Cleanup • Laptop Speaker for Powerpoint/Movie Showings • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Staples, and Art Supply Stores • Donations Toward Purchase of Industrial Vacuum Cleaner • and **VOLUNTEERS** for Filling & Monitoring Bird Feeders • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Spring Garden Grooming • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Adopt-A-Trail Groups • Invasive Plant Species Management • Poster Design & Distribution • Reception Desk Duty • Nature Shop Cleaning & Sales • Playscape Restoration • Publicity Duties • **Presenting FANCI Birthday Party Fundraisers!!!**

Redwing Pond House Wish List: • Large Art/Drawing Paper • Microscopes • Tempera Powder Paints • Copy Machine Paper • Bird Seed • Epson Printer Ink Cartridges 126 & 127 (Black & 3-Color) • Garden/Yard Tools • Children's Books • Nature Guides • Prisms, Crystals, Geodes, etc.

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.



ANSONIA NATURE AND RECREATION CENTER STAFF

Director: Alison Rubelmann; *Assistant Director:* Wendy Sabol;
Rangers: Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski, Martin Wigglesworth;
Custodian: Jami Condon.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-736-1053

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: Alison Rubelmann, Pauline Sholtys.
Mailing: Carol Henshaw, Rich Wade.