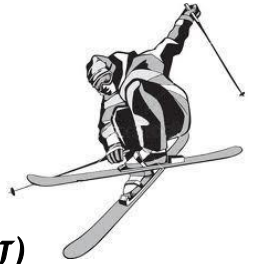




Friends' Focus Winter 2015



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: Constance Culliney, Explorers Learning Center families, Amanda & Jon Hull, Betty Laurella, Albert Misiewicz & Nicole Cignoli, Carleton Newell, Deborah Ruderman (Mead School Bottle Drive).

Other donations & services: Karen Brozek (shredder, clippers, paper, weedwhacker, maintenance supplies); Ethel Capinera (bird feeders, paper, posters, plastic bags); Robert Low (cordless phones); Ruderman family (bird seed & suet cakes); Mary Jo Sierakowski (office supplies); Rich Wade (walkie-talkies, batteries, cups).

Fall 2014 program presenters: Bob Carruthers and the New Haven Astronomical Society (Seasons and the Moon, Oct. 11; Linda Tomas (Amazing World of Bats, Oct. 24); Mike Karolkowski and Viola Waldo (Family Movie Night, Nov. 14); Paul Leek (Antarctic Adventure, Nov. 22); Shane Long (Native American Traditions, Nov. 23); the New Haven Bird Club (Annual Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 20), and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

Naugy River Bash participants and vendors: Ansonia Public Works & WPCA, Antonio's, Judy Augusta (Healthy Valley), Jaime Aulet (Barefoot Books), Kenny Belardinelli, Michael Belardinelli, Dave Connolly (Care Project), Equinox Pro Audio, Jessica Goggins, Jordan Hamuka, Sondra Harmon (Naugatuck River Revival Group), Dennis Kocyla (Naugatuck Valley Audubon), Elaine LaBella (Housatonic Valley Assoc.), Ruth Lazenby (Massaro Farm), Barbara Moore (Valley YMCA), Nameless Trio, Paula Norton (Derby Historical Society), Marion O'Keefe (Derby Historical Society), The Pantry, Ashley Pavelko, Pete and Chris Amusements, Bill Purcell (Valley Chamber of Commerce), Donna Rose Smith (Kellogg Environmental Center), Pat Tarasovic (Valley United Way), Melissa Torres, Kevin Zak (Naugatuck River Revival Group).

Autumn Fest participants and vendors: Ansonia High School Life Skills students, Antonio's, Kenny Belardinelli, Mike Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Jeanette Byron, Joe Calderon, Tom Cox, Gino Demico, Kari Doering, Patricia Drew, Pat Evans, Susan Foster, Kathy Gambacini, Jessica Goggins, Kelly Greathouse, Jordan Hamuka, Taylor Hopkins, Mike Karolkowski, Chrissy Khachane, Elizabeth Krysinski, Doris Leek, Donna Lindgren, Ben Madison, Ryan Madison, Dakota Meiers, Sherry Nerreau, Ashley Pavelko, Logan Re, Erin Reilly, Jean Roslonowski, Melissa Satonick, Stephanie Satonick, Pauline Sholtys, Anne Smith, Craig Smith, Dawn & Tim Sotir (Coon Hollow Farm), Jessica Sulkowski, Mary Tolnai, James Tully, Jennifer Tully, Jan Wade, Rich Wade, Viola Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth, Susan Wilson, Debbie Winthal, Jake Wronski, Tyler Yurman.

Birthday party presenters: Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Jordan Hamuka, Michelle Piombino, Dawn Sotir.

Fall 2014 Calendar of Events mailing crew: Tom Cox, Donna Lindgren, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Millie Sholtys, Anne Smith, Rich Wade.

Administrative assistance/clerical work: Kari Doering, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Michelle Piombino, Angelica Santos-Monkrzel, Pauline Sholtys, Rich Wade.

Trail work, gardening, cleaning, & litter patrols: Kenny Belardinelli, Gary Cohen, James Fourtin, Mike Karolkowski, Elizabeth & Christian Krysinski, Steven Schmidt, Martin Wigglesworth, Tyler Yurman, and volunteers from the Kennedy Center.

Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by: Gary Cohen; Marcia Cohen; Jami Condon; Lisa Dickal; Kari Doering; Jordan Hamuka; Ashley Pavelko, A Place Called Hope; Angelica Santos-Monkrzel, Steven

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).

Thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our lights on and our pond flowing, landscaping and trail work, and much more!



New Members: Ashley Carroll, Shawna DelVecchio, Noelle Gallagher, Adam Nolde, Chloe Shaw.

Friends' Membership Form Winter 2015

New Renewal I'd like to volunteer

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

- Please send everything to me by e-mail.
- Please send me a paper copy of the quarterly Calendar, and everything else by e-mail.

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

CHECK # _____

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) Winter 2015

Check #: _____ Animal Care
Amount: \$ _____ Other (please specify) _____

Name: _____

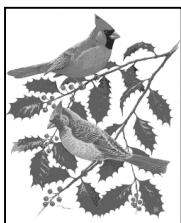
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

General Mailing List Update (Winter 2015)

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!!!

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center meet at the Nature Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 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: Michael Karolkowski, Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski, Martin Wigglesworth; *Custodian:* Jami Condon.
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-736-1053



Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Redwing Pond House Preschool is having a wonderful year! We have an amazing group of children and families, and have been having a great time learning and growing together. We are a thriving, busy group of curious three to five year olds, who spend our days exploring our surroundings, laughing, and learning together.

When we are not outside exploring, we have been busy reaching out to the community, and supporting our neighborhood organizations. We have been able to collect and deliver generous donations from our families to support the Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital during October, as well as food collections for Spooner House, and pet supply donations for our local animal shelter.

We are excitedly waiting for a fun-filled snowy winter, and anxious to meet a couple of new friends who will be joining our class in the new year. We will be making snow angels, tracking animals, sledding, hiking, catching snowflakes on our tongues, and laughing a lot! Be sure to take a peek at our days on our Facebook page: 'redwingpondhousepreschool'

Happy Winter from the RWPH!!

Jacqueline Lema, Director/Head Teacher
Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center's Playground Revitalization Project

In September 1991, twenty-three years ago, Ansonia's Homegrown Playground, lovingly built by the community for its children, was dedicated here at the Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center. Since that time thousands of children and parents have created happy memories here. Many of you may remember helping to build the playground or spending many hours with your children and/or grandchildren playing here.

It's time to think about continuing the legacy and ensuring the playground's longevity for future generations. We are asking our community to come together again to renew and rebuild out Homegrown Playground. Please consider joining our Playground Committee so we can begin planning for the future.

We will begin by contacting several playground vendors to get ideas about their products and work and hear their thoughts and suggestions. Our focus is to keep the look and feel of the current playground and to incorporate as many natural elements as possible into the new structure.

If you would like to be part of this committee, please send us your name, address, telephone number, email address, and how you would like to help us in achieving our goal.



PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS and the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. Five educational birthday party themes to choose from:

- AWESOME AMPHIBIANS (SPRING & SUMMER ONLY)**
- BIRD BRAINS**
- INCREDIBLE INSECTS**
- REPTILES RULE**
- MAD FOR 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 \$150.00, non-members \$175.00
For more information please call (203) 736-1053.



Nature Center Wish List: New Microwave for Nature Center Kitchen • New Shed • New Clean Gallon Jugs for Maple Sap Collection • Lightweight Aluminum Folding Hand Truck • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • 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 Feeders • Food Processor • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Staples, and Art Supply Stores • and **VOLUNTEERS for** Filling & Monitoring Bird Feeders • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Adopt-A-Trail Groups • Exhibit Work • Reception Desk Duty • Nature Shop Cleaning & Sales • Playscape Restoration • Publicity Duties • After School Program Adult Volunteers • **Presenting FANCI Birthday Party Fundraisers!!!**

Redwing Pond House Wish List: We are well supplied with most things right now...but we do need • **Bird Seed** • to feed our feathered friends this winter!

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, Norma Jean Moore.
Mailing: Rich Wade.