



# Friends' Focus Spring 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:

Suzanne Andrews, Charles H. Baldwin, Clorox Company Foundation, Lori Gallagher, Susan Hawley, Antoinette Jaskilka, Donna Krukosky, Doris & Paul Leek, Carleton B. Newell, Donna Presnell, John & Joanna Saffo, Beverly B. Tate, United Way, Amy Volovski, Joseph Welsh. **In memory of Robert Steinis:** Mary Ann Panelli & Friends at Bozzuto's.

**Other donations & services:** Aaron & Naomi Allen (dog training event); Michael & Kenny Belardinelli (dog training event); Nick Dellolio (3 tanks & supplies); Emmett O'Brien Technical students (preparing bluebird house kits); Roxana Findley (guinea pig supplies); Sheila Michalsen (cat carrier); Helene Sarracco (bird seed, feeder, microwave oven); Susan & Ian Schroeder (dog training event); Alice Terribile & Jim Neilson (dog training event); Carol Valentin (dog food).

**Winter 2015 program presenters:** Mike Karolkowski, Ali Rubelmann, and Jeff Rubelmann (Healthy Living Series (Jan. 3, Jan. 11, Mar. 15)); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1); Northeast Utilities (Eagle Watching at the Shepaug Dam, Feb. 7); Henry Lappen ("A Passion for Birds," Feb. 28); Che Cartafalsa (Spring Equinox Drumming, Mar. 21); Bob Carruthers and the New Haven Astronomical Society (Winter Astronomy, Mar. 28); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

**Maple Fest participants and vendors:** Ansonia High School Life Skills students, Jaime Aulet (Barefoot Books), Beardsley Zoo, Kenny Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Newton Carroll (Elm City Kettle Corn), CT Maple Syrup Producers Assoc., Tom Cox, Dad's Food Truck, Derby Historical Society, Kari Doering, Patricia Drew, Pat Evans, Richard Feher, Kathy Gambacini, Jessica Goggins, Nil Guillet (Papa's Sugar Shack), Jordan Hamuka, Taylor Hopkins, Greg Karas, Mike Karolkowski, Chrissy Khachane, Elizabeth Krysinski, Doris Leek, Eric Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Dakota Meiers, Sherry Nerreau, Bonnie Pelaccia, Jean Roslonowski, Pauline Sholtys, Laura Shultz, Drew Shuptar, Anne Smith, Dawn & Tim Sotir (Coon Hollow Farm), Jessica Sulkowski, Mary Tolnai, Jon Torok, James Tully, Jennifer Tully, Jan Wade, Rich Wade, Viola Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman.

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

**Winter 2015 Calendar of Events mailing crew:** Tom Cox, Elizabeth Krysinski, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Jan Wade, Rich Wade.

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

**Snow removal, cleaning, & litter patrols:** Kenny Belardinelli, Gary Cohen, James Fournin, Mike Karolkowski, Elizabeth & Christian Krysinski, Steven Schmidt, Martin Wigglesworth, and Tyler Yurman.

**Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by:** Gary Cohen; Marcia Cohen; Kari Doering; Jorge Paiz, A Place Called Hope; Steven Schmidt; Rich Wade; Susan Wilson; Tyler Yurman; & 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).

**Thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our lights on, our snow plowed, our sidewalks shoveled, and much more!**



**New Members:** Melissa & Eric Abbott, Lori Gallagher, Carol Lemmon, Kathryn Mendez, Laura Soleski, Tindill Family, Amy Volovski.

### Friends' Membership Form Spring 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
- \$25 Family
- \$35 Sponsor
- \$100 Class/Troop
- \$150 Individual Life
- \$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) Spring 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 (Spring 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@ansoniacr.org](mailto:ansnaturectr@ansoniacr.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: Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski, Martin Wigglesworth;  
Custodian: Jami Condon.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-736-1053



### Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Redwing Pond House Preschool children have had a wonderful time enjoying the snow this winter, but are happy to see the exciting first signs of Spring! We are choosing seeds for our children's garden, identifying animal tracks on our daily hikes, and enjoying more time in the fresh air than the frigid temperatures of this winter allowed! In February we were fortunate to have Taylor Healey join our teaching staff. Taylor brings a great deal of enthusiasm, fun and adventure to our program and we welcome her!

If you are looking for a wonderful way for your 3-5 year old to spend some time this summer—have them join us for summer camp at the RWPH! We also have limited spaces remaining for our 2015-2016 school year. Please call us at 203-734-7974 if you are interested in hearing more about any of our incredible programs.

As always, you can take a peek at our activities on our Facebook page: 'redwingpondhousepreschool'.

Happy Spring from the RWPH!!

Jacqueline Lema, Director/Head Teacher  
Redwing Pond House Preschool

## The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center's Playground Revitalization Project

Over the long winter months the staff and FANCI's grant writing committee have met several times to go over a scope of work for the Ansonia Homegrown Playground so that we can proceed with grant applications for 2015. Our committee has also been collaborating with the City of Ansonia's Economic Development Director and Mayor David Casseti to ensure the playground's longevity for future generations.

The Nature Center staff has also contacted and met with four playground vendors and has received some conceptual designs. These designs will include ADA accommodations, keeping with our natural design, and will accommodate children of all ages. Many of you may remember helping to build the playground or spending many hours with your children and/or grandchildren playing here. We are asking for our community to come together again to help rebuild out Homegrown Playground.

If you would like to be part of our fundraising committee, please send us your name, address, telephone number, email address, and how you can help us achieve 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 Shed • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Boardwalk Extension • Suet Feeders • Suet Cakes • Black Oil Sunflower Seeds • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Outdoor Classroom & Viewing Deck • 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 • Bluebird Box Monitoring • 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 still need • **Bird Seed** • to help our feathered friends as spring gets under way!

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.  
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