

Friends' Focus Summer 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: Marianne Barker; Black Tabby Studio, LLC (Lindsey Smith); Clorox Company Foundation; Constance Culliney; Jeffrey & Martha Devine; Courtney Howard; Ion Bank Foundation; River Valley Baptist Church; Riverview Super Service Inc.; A. John Rodrigues; Edward Rzasz; Carolyn Stewart; Valley United Way. **The Great Give:** Joan Bettencourt, James Cohen, Frey Hershey Foundation Fund, Anne Herlihy, Joan Holycross-Otto, Edward Lane, Elizabeth Laurella, Jacqueline Lema, Donna Lindgren, Frank Parda, Venisa Riebe, Wendy Sabol, Seth Spiewak, Melinda Tuhus, Rich Wade, Joseph Warichar, Marlys Youngberg.

Maple Festival raffle donations: Arrow Printers; Beardsley Zoo; Joan Bettencourt, Big Y, BJ's Wholesale Club; Karen Brozek, Bruegger's Bagels; Eddy's Bake Shop; Heav'nly Donuts; ShopRite; Spector Furniture; Stop & Shop; Tea with Tracy; Valley Diner.

Other donations & services: Karen Brozek (maple sugaring supplies); Food Corps (family garden program); Barbara Hertel (bird seed); Christine Murcott (animal care supplies); Valley United Way / Unilever (spring planting & wood chipping); Janice Wivagg (bat houses); and spring planting volunteers Victoria Dobrycki, Libby Joy, Monika Kiwak, Athena Klonaras, Adrian Spillane, Christian Spillane, John Spillane.

Spring 2015 program presenters: Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14); Peter and Barbara Rzasz (Spring Wildflowers of Connecticut, Apr. 18); Stepping Stones Museum for Children (Healthyville exhibit, Apr. 21–May 5); Alexis Wilcox and Dan Rozanski of Duck Truck Composting (Rain Barrels 'R Us, May 3); Martin Wigglesworth and Russ Zelanin (D.E.E.P. C.A.R.E. Program: Fishing, May 9); Kathy Gambacini (Spring Migrants of the Nature Center, May 16); Gaianne Jenkins (The Turning of Venus, June 5); Cyril May ("Little Fairies, Big Magic," June 20); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

Earth Day participants and vendors: Crystal Abbott; Ansonia Animal Control (Jean Roslonowski); Ansonia Community Organic Gardens (Pat Evans); Elena Augusewicz; Kenny Belardinelli; Michael Belardinelli; Joan Bettencourt; Karen Brozek; Bungay School (Mike Milia); Marcia Cohen; Jami Condon; Tom Cox; CT NOFA; DEEP; Kari Doering; Emmett O'Brien Recycling Art Exhibit; Family Haunts; Kathy Gambacini; Jessica Goggins; Scott Hamilton; Cody Haskins; Jackie Lema; Joan Lenart; Donna Lindgren; Ken McEwen and Five in the Chamber; Norma Jean Moore; Christine Murcott; Naugatuck River Revival Group (Sondra Harman & Kevin Zak), Sherry Nerreau; Pete & Barb Rzasz; Michael Shea; Drew Shuptar-Rayvis; Mary Tolnai, James Tully, Viola, Kyle, & Kenia Waldo; Jake Wronski; and all the Bake Sale bakers.

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

Spring 2015 Calendar of Events mailing crew: Tom Cox, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Sherry Nerreau, Millie Sholtys, Pauline 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.

Park cleanup & litter patrols: Kenny Belardinelli, Gary Cohen, James Fourtin, 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; Kimberly Leite, Allison Matula, A Place Called Hope; Stefanie Reyher, Steven Schmidt; Joy Tait, 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 and our grass mowed, for our spring-cleaning debris removal, and much more!



New Members: Carmen Barrios; Black Tabby Studio, LLC; Brant Family; Regina DeMartin; Edward Fitzgerald; Gloria Garnish; Melissa Haas; Howard Family; Monika Karnuseviciute; Nancy & William Liedlich; McAuliffe Family; Sandra Porpora; Josephine Queen; Thomas & Eileen Warner.

Friends' Membership Form Summer 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) Summer 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

*We always like to hear
what our young
visitors think!*

liked to Play With
Lidia. Something
else that was interesting
was Looking at the animals
and the worms
When I Went on the
bike. The Nature Center
was a Cool field trip.
Jennifer P.

The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center's Playground Revitalization Project

The Nature Center 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. Our committee has also been collaborating with the City of Ansonia's Economic Development Director and Mayor David Cassetti 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: Gas Powered Hedge Trimmer • New Shed • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Boardwalk Extension • Black Oil Sunflower Seeds • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Outdoor Classroom & Viewing Deck • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Staples, and Art Supply Stores • and **VOLUNTEERS for Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Adopt-A-Trail Groups • Exhibit Work • Playscape Restoration • Presenting FANCI Birthday Party Fundraisers!!!**

Redwing Pond House Wish List: The RWPH Preschool is always grateful for paper donations, gardening supplies (hoses, spades, potting soil, etc), gift cards to Staples, Michaels, A.C. Moore, etc. for art supplies, and tree stumps! We have many thinly-sliced tree sections (we call them tree cookies!) that we use for building and paths outside, and we love larger stumps to sit and climb on!

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: Daniel Bosques, 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, Norma Jean Moore.
Mailing: Rich Wade.

General Mailing List Update (Summer 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 (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!!!



Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Redwing Pond House Preschool had a wonderful school year! We were fortunate to spend the year exploring alongside an amazing group of children, and to have our program further enriched by their incredible group of parents. The children have grown so much since our first days in September, and are enthusiastic hikers, great partners, curious explorers, and talented gardeners! We said "Goodbye" to some of our little friends as they transition into kindergarten, and wish them happiness and success in their new adventures! (We look forward to them visiting us!) We will be seeing our returning friends, and welcoming a wonderful group of new children into our classroom before we know it! We have a wonderful year planned!

We are also excited about our summer camp at the Pond House! We are offering four weeks of fun and exploration beginning July 13 and running through the first week in August. Camp is available to children 3-5 years of age with an exciting new theme offered each week—it is always a wonderful time! Find registration forms and information on our website, redwingpondhousepreschool.org, call Jackie at 203-734-7974, or email directorrwph@yahoo.com. Please register by June 25 to reserve your child's space. We hope to see you soon!

Jacqueline Lema, Director/Head Teacher
Redwing Pond House Preschool
Find us on Facebook at 'redwingpondhousepreschool'

Nature-Based Summer Camp at the RWPH Preschool!

For kids ages 3-5

Join us for one or more weeks!

Weekly Themes:

July 13-16 Nature & Woodlands • July 20-23 Gardens & Birds

July 27-30 Oceans & Water • August 3-6 Summer Fun

Each week 8:30-11:30 am, Monday-Thursday

Cost per week: \$175 for current RWPH students, \$200 all others