



# Friends' Focus Fall 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.

**Noble S. Proctor, Ph.D.**  
April 10, 1942--May 28, 2015

We mark the passing of naturalist Noble Proctor, whose lifelong passion for natural history began when he was a young boy exploring the woodlands and streams of Ansonia with hometown mentor Tom Buswell. Naturalist Roger Tory Peterson, a close friend, once stated, "Noble Proctor is the most knowledgeable naturalist on a local, United States and worldwide scale that I have ever met."

Noble, an SCSU professor of ornithology, botany, and biogeography for 34 years, was a patient and enthusiastic teacher. ANC director Ali Rubelmann and past director Donna Lindgren were both students of his.

For over 40 years, he studied and led wildlife tours in such places as Alaska, Russia, Africa, and Costa Rica, visiting 90 countries. A lifelong ornithologist, he compiled a lifetime birding list of over 6,000 species (814 species in North America) and a list of 512 species of North American bird nests. Noble wrote and co-authored 10 books on birds and wildlife, and was also a wildlife photographer. He worked with Roger Tory Peterson to revise the *Eastern Field Guide to Birds*. Noble also spoke at the UN with Jane Goodall on the state of the environment worldwide.

Biodiversity was of keen interest to Noble. During BioBlitz events, in which the goal is to find as many species as possible in a 24 hour period in a given area. Noble's personal best was 1450 species in one day.

Noble was a member of many wildlife societies, including the American Birding Society and the New Haven Bird Club. He was a founding member of the board of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute for Natural History. His many awards include the Outstanding Conservationist Award from the CT Botanical Society and the American Birding Association's Roger Tory Peterson Award.

Noble's legacy is the life changing infusion of enthusiasm and awareness of the breadth of nature in all who had the good fortune to know him.

**THANK YOU! Monetary donations:** Zoë R Beck, Anthony and Pamela Bilotto, Clorox Co., Community Foundation, Constance Culliney, Dr. Marc Diberardino, Give Greater, Virginia Grant, Susan Hawley, Barbara Hertel, Ion Bank, John W. John, Delphine Krezel, Mark Madigosky, Heather Merrill, Stacey Moran, Carleton Newell, Jean Roslonowski, Deborah Ruderman, Constance and Scott Schatzlein, Super Softy, James Tomlinson, Lisa Zolkiewicz.

**Other donations & services:** Barbara Hertel (bird seed); Kathleen Kevalas (taxidermy raccoon); Ada Merrill (art supplies); Pitney Bowes (weeding & mulching RWPB butterfly bird garden, installing garden bench in ANC family organic garden); Mike Shea (interpretive signage for self guided trail); Janice Wivagg (bat houses).

**Mud Day volunteers:** Mike Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Sylvie Boucher, Kathy Gambacini, Jordan Hamuka, Betty Laurella, Donna Lindgren, John McEachern, Nate Platt, Ashley Smith, Rich Wade, Viola Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth.

**Summer 2015 program presenters:** Karen Hicks & Ansonia School Readiness Council (Story Stroll, July 8); Food Corps (Family Organic Garden Program, July 10–Sept. 25); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13); Dawn Sotir & Jody Bishel (Back to Basics: Natural Dyes, Aug. 1); Chris Rowlands (music/comedy/puppet show, Aug. 7); Bob Carruthers & New Haven Astronomical Society (Rocks in Space: Perseid Meteor Showers, Aug. 8); James Tully (Amazing World of Arthropods, Aug. 15); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

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

**Summer 2015 Calendar of Events mailing crew:** Tom Cox, Donna Lindgren, N.J. Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Millie Sholtys, Anne Smith, Jan and Rich Wade.

**Administrative assistance/clerical work:** Kari Doering, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Bonnie Pelaccia, Pauline Sholtys, Rich Wade.

**Environmental Education Assistants:** Sylvie Boucher, John McEachern, Maia Wohler.

**Park cleanup & litter patrols:** Kenny Belardinelli, Big Y, Gary Cohen, Kennedy Center, John McEachern, Neilson Corp., Prudential, Steven Schmidt, Paul Sidorow, Valley United Way, Tyler Yurman,

**Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by:** Sylvie Boucher, Gary Cohen, Marcia Cohen, Lisa Dickal, Kari Doering, Kimberly Leite, Kate Linderman, John McEachern, Charlin Pereira, Stefanie Reyher, Steven Schmidt, Joy Tait, Rich Wade, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman, Ansonia Animal Control, and 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 toilets functioning and our grass mowed, for repairs and summer painting, debris removal, and much more!**



**New Members:** Jody Bishel, Pat Compton, Ann Deduk, Dragunoff Family, Rachel Edwards, Stacy Grussi & Family, Holmgren Family, Cindy Napoleone, Erica Pelaccia, Joi Prud'homme, Ann Rolf, Cheryl Wirth Santulli, Vycoria Ullah.

### Hunting Season Safety

Year round, visitors to the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center often hear the Ansonia Rod and Gun Club's shooting range activity, which is located on land adjacent to our park. In our 30-year-plus history, we have not had any "incidents" with these good neighbors, though the noise level they produce is sometimes a concern. The staff and wildlife in the park have become accustomed to it over the years. However, fall brings the hunting season, which runs through December 30. Hunting is not allowed in our park, but some of the adjacent land owners, such as State Forest land, do allow it, and this can be a concern to hikers. For your safety, we suggest that you wear brightly colored clothing when walking our trails. We recommend purchasing an orange safety vest at a sporting goods store. Avoid wearing white or woodland colors such as green and brown. Our park is staffed seven days a week. If you have any concerns while walking our trails, please call us at 203-736-1053.

### Friends' Membership Form Fall 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) Fall 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 (Fall 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!!!

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.



**Redwing Pond House Preschool**

The Redwing Pond House Preschool proudly began another exciting school year on September 3rd. We have welcomed back our returning preschoolers and are thrilled to have many new friends join us as we learn and explore this year! We are already becoming little experts on the trails surrounding our school, have spent time tending to our children's garden (we have many pumpkins growing!), and are forming wonderful new friendships.

We have spent our first weeks supporting the children as they adjust to their new schedule, build independence, and begin to participate with new friends in group activities. We spend our days learning about the world around us and our role in protecting and exploring it! We will be studying butterflies, colors, and habitats over the next few weeks. This promises to be another exciting year of nature discovery and kindergarten preparedness at the Redwing Pond House Preschool!

Jacqueline Lema, Director/Head Teacher  
Redwing Pond House Preschool

Find us on Facebook at 'redwingpondhousepreschool'

**ANSONIA NATURE AND RECREATION CENTER STAFF**

Director: Alison Rubelmann; Assistant Director: Wendy Sabol;

Rangers: Daniel Bosques, Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski;

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.

**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.

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

As you have read here in previous issues, the Nature Center staff and FANCI's grant writing committee have been working hard to secure funding to rebuild the Ansonia Homegrown Playground. In addition to the work already done, all the proceeds from this year's Autumn Fest will go toward the playground, and there will also be another upcoming fundraising event for this project. We welcome all those who would like to be part of this effort, so 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.

**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!

**October**

*O hushed October morning mild  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild  
Should waste them all  
The crows above the forest call;  
To-morrow they may form and go  
O hushed October morning mild  
Begin the hours of this day slow  
Make the day seem to us less brief  
Hearts not averse to being beguiled  
Beguile us in the way you know;  
Release one leaf at break of day;  
At noon release another leaf;  
One from our trees, one far away;  
Retard the sun with gentle mist,  
Enchant the land with amethyst  
Slow, slow!  
For the grapes' sake, if they were all  
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost  
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—  
For the grapes' sake along the wall.*

—Robert Frost