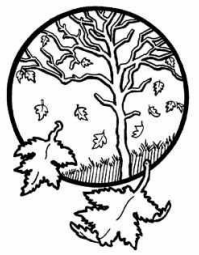




# Friends' Focus Fall 2016



## 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.



**Monetary donations:** Theresa Andriulli, Mark Berger, Virginia Fainer, William Green, Nancy Harrington, Mark Madigosky, Jen Mandanici, Erica Pelaccia, Dwight Shelomis, Turtleshell Fund. **Playground monetary donations:** Ansonia Garden Club, Kathy Boufford, CT Basement Systems, James Friss, Larry Janesky, Mark Madigosky, Mead School, Norma Jean Moore, William Nimmons, Mildred Sholtys, Kamil Steczkowski, Trusted Properties.

**Big Build volunteers/donations:** \*\*\*CT Basement Systems\*\*\* and Alexis Amdrelli, Ansonia Democratic Committee, Joan Bettencourt, Big Y, BJ's, Sarah & David Blackwell, Stephen Collins, Jami Condon, Tom Cox, Kristel Delima, Jake Delima, DeStefano Family, Dominos Pizza, Duchess (Shelton), Steven Erlingheuser, John Esser, Monica Estwau, Ken Feldkamp, Focaccia's, Kathy Gambacini, Mary Gibson, Sterling Griffin, Melissa Haas, Raymond Hagan, Sal Hanaif, Marissa Harris, Heav'nly Donuts, Christine Hemenway, DeAnna Imbro, Janelle Johnson, Kam's Home Improvement, Jackie Karolkowski, Norah Kish, David Knapp, Betty Laurella, Donna Lindgren, Wendy and Robert Low, Corinne Lydem, Marilena & Jason Martucci, John McEahern, Shawn Mendenhall, Nichole Milia, Norma Jean Moore, Naugatuck Valley River Dawgs football team, Sherry Nerreau, Cindy Nicoletti, Sue & Jerry Olmsted, Tashua & Karsten Olsen, Patrick Palmer, Joyce Patria, Beth Pelaccia, Bonnie Pelaccia, Dave and Carol Pendagast, Peralta Design, Nathan Platt, Tarek & Tamsin Raslan, Kristen Rizzio, Colleen Rondon, Felipe Said, RD Scinto Inc., Millie Sholtys, Pauline Sholtys, Anne Smith, Mary Ellen Sorcinelli, Valerie Sorrentino, Dawn Sotir, Tim Sotir, Stop & Shop, Subway, Jessica Taylor, Stephanie Trcka, Peter Tuccio, Valley United Way Corporate Volunteer Council, Cassie Venson, Andrew Weiler, Fran Wellner, Crystal White, Linda Yound.

**Other donations:** Zoë Beck (aquarium supplies, garden tools, have a heart trap, beanie babies), Nicole Caffrey (bird seed), Beverly Kaye (gift certificate), Pat & Sandy O'Neil (robin's nest), Kathryn Williams (zebra),

**Summer 2016 program presenters:** Pam Mellitz (Yoga for a Healthy Mind and Body, Thursdays); Food Corps (Family Organic Garden Program, Fridays); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11); Chris Rowlands (puppet and music presentation, July 29); Bob Carruthers and the New Haven Astronomical Society (Perseid Meteor Showers, Aug. 12); Peter and Barbara Rzasa (Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Connecticut, Aug. 19); The Naugatuck River Revival Group (The Naugatuck River: The Movie, Aug. 21); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

**Summer 2016 Nature Days:** Amanda Barbieri, John McEachern, Allison Ogle.

**Birthday party presenters:** Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Dawn Sotir, Rich Wade.

**Summer 2016 Calendar of Events mailing crew:** Ruthie Chartoff, Tom Cox, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Patrick Neumann, Millie Sholtys, Rich Wade.

**Administrative assistance/clerical work:** Joan Bettencourt, Raymond Hogan, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Adam Schaefer, Allison Schaefer, Pauline Sholtys, Rich Wade, Amie Ziner.

**Week of Caring:** Focaccia's Cafe, Homewood Suites Hilton, Kam Home Improvements, Ramon Peralta, Prudential, RD Scinto, Unilever, Webster Bank.

**Eagle Scout Project:** Daniel Feichtner, Matthew Kish.

**Park cleanup and trail work:** Luis Bosques, Kennedy Center, Peralta Design, Prudential.

**Animal care:** Chelsea Callahan, Gary Cohen, Marcia Cohen, Kimberly Leite, John McEachern, Allison Ogle, Dana Perry, Ryan Schmidt, Steven Schmidt, Rich Wade, Susan Wilson, Also many thanks to James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital.

**Thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our park safe and clean, and much, much more!**



**Welcome New Members:** Elizabeth Dorney, Gabriela Garcia, Kellie Harris, Chris Inclima, Amy Kinton, Heather Mouzas, Joanne Palmer, Sokolowski Family, Dawn & Jordan Stark, Jill Taylor, Doreen & David Urban, Susan L. Wilson.

### Friends' Membership Form Fall 2016

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) Fall 2016

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

## Mailing List Update (Fall 2016)



### For non-FANCI members receiving paper copies of our Calendar of Events and Friends' Focus:

Help us update our mailing list and also save trees, reduce landfill, and eliminate junk mail! If your mailing label says "2011" following your name,

please let us know if you wish to remain on our mailing list. Just 1) fill in this form and mail it to us at Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401; OR 2) call us at 203-736-1053; OR 3) e-mail us at [ansnaturectr@ansoniac.org](mailto:ansnaturectr@ansoniac.org) (use the subject line Mailing List).

If we don't hear from you by the next mailing, we will remove you from the mailing list. **FANCI members and active volunteers will remain on the mailing list; no need to reply to this request.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please KEEP ME ON your mailing list (check label for any corrections needed)  
 Please REMOVE my name from your mailing list.  
 Please MOVE me to your e-mail list, where I will receive the Calendar and Friends' Focus and also other messages from the Ansonia Nature Center.

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

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, Amie Ziner; *Custodian:* Jami Condon.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 203-736-1053



## Redwing Pond House Preschool

After what we hope was a restful and relaxing summer full of family fun and sunshine, the Redwing Pond House is ready to welcome back our returning friends, and meet many new wonderful children this September! The classroom is stocked with exciting new supplies, and the staff is ready to begin exploring and making memories with our little friends. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with days full of learning, laughter, exploration, and lots of fun!

If you are not familiar with our school, please take a look at our website, [www.rwphpreschool.org](http://www.rwphpreschool.org); check out our Facebook page, "Redwing Pond House Preschool"; or call 203-734-7974 to schedule a visit to our special little school. We are currently accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year for children 3-5 years old and would love to tell you all about our program.

Wishes for a wonderful Fall from all of us at the Redwing Pond House!

Jacqueline Lema, Director/ Head Teacher  
Redwing Pond House Preschool

**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 we move into autumn!



## Basement Systems Rebuild Playground at Ansonia Nature Center

When Alison Rubelmann, Executive Director of the Ansonia Nature Center, was guest speaker at a recent monthly meeting of the Valley United Way's Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC), and explained the epic need for help in rebuilding their playground, the CVC knew it had to respond. At about the same time, Basement Systems of Seymour expressed to the CVC interest in a major community service project to which its employees could contribute.

"When Basement Systems reached out to me to ask for ideas for a major project their company could tackle, I immediately thought of Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, because their playground had been unexpectedly taken down; there was a mammoth need for a new playground," Volunteer Action Center Director Pat Tarasovic said.

So Larry Janesky, CEO and founder of Basement Systems, led the gigantic effort to build a new playground because, well, that's how Larry models his everyday life. Larry is a leader. He lives his life fully, by welcoming opportunities to share his passion and vision. People truly value his inspiration, and it is in this spirit that his army of volunteers marched onto the ANRC site and built. "Basement Systems is happy to support the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center's effort to rebuild its playground," said Larry. "We know this is going to help a lot of kids, so we can't wait to get our employees out there and get to work."

The playground was rebuilt over one weekend, July 15-17. Other CVC companies joined together and lent their support by doing some trail work and other volunteer projects on the Nature Center grounds while Larry's team of talented volunteers provided the leadership, muscle, and building expertise. Our beautiful new playground was built to last the next 25 years.

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center wholeheartedly thank Basement Systems and all the volunteers who strengthened our community and gave the gift of caring. The priceless smiles on our children's faces will never fade.



**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:** Good Cordless Drill • White Board Markers • New Shed • Stackable Washer & Dryer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Bird Feeders • Suet Cakes • Sunflower & Mixed Bird Seed • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Residents • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners & Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Petco, Staples, & Art Supply Stores • Items for Autumnfest Raffle • New Freestanding Reptile Enclosure • and

**VOLUNTEERS for** Greeting/Clerical Work • Nature Store Clerks • Docents • Nature Trail Maintenance • Critter Care • Exhibit Work • Birthday Party Presenters.

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: Rich Wade.