**Friends’ Focus**

**Spring 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.

**THANK YOU!** Monetary donations:


Other donations:

Broken Arrow Nursery (greens for wreath workshop), Karen Brozek (Maple Festival raffle), Nicole Cafrfey (bird seed), Bill Carpenter (locker for ranger room), Gary Cohen (suet), Marcia Cohen (quilts and bag for Maple Festival raffle), CT Beardsey Zoo (Maple Festival raffle), Stop & Shop, Ansonia (Maple Festival raffle), Tea with Tracy (Maple Festival raffle), Valley Diner (Maple Festival raffle), Viola Waldo (Maple Festival raffle item), World Centric (Maple Festival), Amie Ziner (toaster). 

**Winter 2016 program presenters:** Pam Mellitz (Yoga for a Healthy Mind and Body, Thursdays); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Support Group, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 13); Heather’s Korner (Sewing Classes, Jan 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 6); The Naugatuck River Revival Group (The Naugatuck River: The Movie, Jan. 15, Feb. 21); The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) CT Aquatic Resources Education (C.A.R.E.) (DEEP Ice Fishing, Jan. 27); A Place Called Hope (Live Raptors, Mar. 13); Pat Evans (Ansonia Community Organic Garden Plot, Mar. 20); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

**Maple Fest participants and vendors:** ANC staff, Ansonia High School Life Skills students, AHS Life Skills, Kenny & Mike Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Coon Hollow Farm, Thomas Cox, Derby Historical Society, DJ’s Grill, Kari Doering, Patricia Drew, Elm City Kettle Corn, Richard Feher, Kathy Gambacini, Jessica Goggins, Jordan Hamuka, Greg Karas, Betty Laurell, Karen Broze (Ansonia Community Organic Garden Plot, Mar. 20), Maple Fest participants and vendors: ANC staff, Ansonia High School Life Skills students, AHS Life Skills, Kenny & Mike Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Coon Hollow Farm, Thomas Cox, Derby Historical Society, DJ’s Grill, Kari Doering, Patricia Drew, Elm City Kettle Corn, Richard Feher, Kathy Gambacini, Jessica Goggins, Jordan Hamuka, Greg Karas, Betty Laurell, Karen Broze, John Cox, Corrine Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Tom Nedweden, Sherry Nerreau, Papa’s Sugar Shack, Ashley Pavelko, Bonnie & Erica Pelaccia, Anne Smith, Mary Tolnai, James Tully, Lyndsey Tupy, Rich & Jan Wade, Viola & Kyle Waldo, Susan Wilson, Cake Wronski, Tyler Yurman, and all volunteers who contributed to our bake sale.

Charger Club afterschool: Kenny Belardinelli, Kasia Gumowski, Lyndsey Tupy.

Birthday party presenters: Pat Evans, James Tully.

**Winter 2016 Calendar of Events mailing crew:**


Administrative assistance/clerical work:


Park cleanup and trail work:

Khalil Alamin, Benny Belardinelli, Dan Bosques, James Fourtin, Kasia Gumowski, Kennedy Center, Peter & Barbara Rzasa, Geoffrey & Marilyn Turner.

Eagle Scout:

James Stewart.

Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by: Gary Cohen; Marcia Cohen; Kari Doering; Kimberly Leite; Jean Roslonowski; Steven Schmidt; Joy Tait; Rich Wade; Susan Wilson; Tyler Yurman; & AHS Life Skills students & mentors, Khalil Alamin, Kasia Gumowski, Lyndsey Tupy. Also many, many thanks to James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital; & Shary Siksay, DVM, & Stone Veterinary Hospital.

**Welcome!**

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

**New Members:** Kayla Beltrone & Skylar Inthavong, Lesley Borrelli, Kate Dahya, Fisher Family, Bert Geiss, Florence Kolendo, Tara Miska & Luis Lopez, Nancy Prior & Richard Wilber, Christine Rich & Family, Sandra Sekelsky-DiTroia, Yuliya & Dzmitry Zhamaituk.

**Friends’ Membership Form**

**Spring 2016**

- **□** New
- **□** Renewal
- **□** I’d like to volunteer

**Name:** __________________________________________

**Address:** __________________________________________

**City:** __________________________________________

**Zip:** __________________ State:__________

**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 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 2016**

- **Check #:** __________________
- **□** Animal Care
- **□** Other (please specify) __________________

**Name:** __________________________________________

**Address:** __________________________________________

**City:** __________________ State:__________

**Zip:** __________________

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The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center’s Playground 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. To date we have raised $25,000. We will be hosting an Art Painting Party Fundraiser for “The Playground Fund 2016” on Saturday, April 2, 3–5 pm, at Kokopelli Music and Arts in Seymour. Join us for an afternoon of music and painting. All art materials provided; just bring your own beverage and snack as well as your enthusiasm! Leave with a painting. FEE $30 per particle. Please register at www.kokopellimusicsandarts.com; click on Wine and Easel, then click on 2016 Calendar of Classes. Class is limited to 35 participants.

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: Earth Day Raffle Items • Annuals for Spring Planting • Gas Powered Leaf Blower • New Shed • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Bird Feeders • Suet Cakes • Sunflower and Mixed Bird Seed • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Food Processor • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Petco, Staples, and Art Supply Store • Bird Feeder for Filling, and Monitoring Bird Feeders • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Adopt a Trail • Exhibit Work • After School Program Adult Volunteers • Playground Fundraising Committee Members • 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.