



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:

Julie Cavanaugh, Randall Chapnick, Connecticut Ornithological Association (grant), Alice Conte, Ms. Sakini DePini, Michael Esposito (Valley United Way), Mr. & Mrs. Flaherty, Douglas & Karen Golden, Hagani Foundation, Inc., Robert Havlena, Susan Hawley, William & Joanna Holden, Mark Madigosky, Albert Misiewicz & Nicole Cignoli, Gary & Joy Murko, Bruce Nichols, Erica Pelaccia & Nicole Presnell, Donna Pursley, Edward Rzasa, Jay & Joanna Saffo, Joan Sweet, William Velms, Janet Wade, Marjorie Wiener.

Other donations: Broken Arrow Nursery (greens for wreath workshop), Karen Brozek (Maple Festival raffle), Nicole Caffrey (bird seed), Bill Carpenter (locker for ranger room), Gary Cohen (suet), Marcia Cohen (quilts and bag for Maple Festival raffle), CT Beardsley 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 Grief 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 Laurella, Donna Lindgren, 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, Jake 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: Kenny Belardinelli, Tom Cox, Corrine Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Wendy Sabol, Paul Sidorow, Anne Smith, Rich Wade, Amie Ziner.

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

Park cleanup and trail work: Khalil Alamin, Kenny 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 thanks to James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital; & Shary Siksay, DVM, & Stone Veterinary Hospital.

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 & Dzmity Zhamaituk.

Friends' Membership Form Spring 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) Spring 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



General Mailing List Update (Spring 2016)

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.



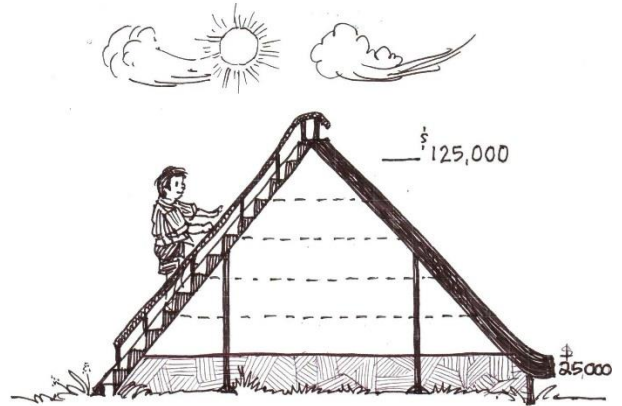
ANSONIA NATURE AND RECREATION CENTER STAFF

Director: Alison Rubelmann; *Assistant Director:* Wendy Sabol; *Rangers:* Daniel Bosques, Dawn Sotir, Jessica Sulkowski, Amie Ziner; *Custodian:* Jami Condon.

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 203-736-1053

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 wild painting. FEE \$30 per person. Please register at www.kokopellimusicandarts.com; click on Wine and Easel, then click on 2016 Calendar of Classes. Class is limited to 35 participants.



Spring Campaign results to date—thank you to all who have already contributed!

If you make the slide taller, the community will benefit! You can help us meet our goal. Your **Spring Campaign gift** directly supports those who make our playground better for you and the community. One way we make the Nature Center better is by building a safe environment in which your families can play.

All contributions made payable to FANCI.



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 Plantings • 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 Stores • and **VOLUNTEERS** 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.

Redwing Pond House Preschool

The children and staff at the Redwing Pond House Preschool have had an exciting winter! We have spent each day outdoors exploring, hiking, playing, building, laughing, and learning. The snow provided wonderful opportunities for the children to track the many animals we share our meadow and trails with, as well as create some incredible snow people! We were fortunate to have had many visitors join us in the classroom sharing fascinating animals, musical talents, science experiments, art projects, great stories and more!

We are now looking forward to the warm weather of Spring to begin exploring the seasonal changes around our little school and begin working in our school garden. We have spent time studying seed catalogs and discussing our preferred plants to grow in our classroom greenhouse, and we are anxious to get started! The Spring will be a time of tremendous growth in the children, as well as the world around them. We will be busy exploring the new growth outdoors, new art mediums, new trails, new talents, and the wonderful friendships that we have all formed.

The preschool is currently enrolling for our 2016-2017 school year; information and application documents for our programs can be found on our beautiful new website: rwphpreschool.org Be sure to take a look at it, as well as our fabulous Facebook page, to get a glimpse of some of our learning adventures!

We are beginning enrollment for our Summer camps as well. Our Preschool camps are available for your nature-loving 3-5 year old child and will be held Monday-Thursday the last three weeks of July and the first week of August. Each week will offer a fun new theme, full of age appropriate activities for our littlest explorers. Additional information and registration paperwork for camp are also available on our website.

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 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.

Editors: Alison Rubelmann, Pauline Sholtys. Mailing: Rich Wade.