



Friends' Focus Summer 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: Marianne Barker, Annmarie Calder, Hamden & Seymour Rotary Clubs (grant), Mark Madigosky, Gary Murko, Erica Pelaccia, Joan Sweet, Western CT

Orienteering Club. **Playground donations:** Nicholas Adams, Alicia Andrews, Melissa Andrews, Kayleigh Apicerno, Arlene Applebaum, Myrtle Bartolotta, Joan Bettencourt, Chastity Bonano, Victoria Britton, Desiree Brooks, Erica Byrne, Annmarie Calder, Lauren Cirkot, Alyssa Cocce, Howard Davidson, Linda Deemy, Maurine Donahue, Terry Downey, Stacey Esposito, Allison Federico, Kirsten Fernandes, Charlotte Flaherty, Bill Freiheit, Carol Frenton, Frey Hershey Foundation Fund, Ethan Fry, Sandra Gelardi, Mary Gibson, Girl Scout Troop 60290, David Goggins, Jessica Goggins, Melissa Haas, Linda Henri, Thomas Henri, Anne Herlihy, Karen Hicks, Carolen Hurd, Ion Bank Community Awards, Carol Johnson, Joan Karlsen, Katharine Matthies Foundation, Corey Koval, Brenda Krysinel, Edward Lane, Elizabeth Laurella, Robert Long, Jessica Lopresti, Alyce Lorusso, Fran Mahoney, Alison Marshal-Rubina, Michael Mayko, Kate McMillan, Arthur Minto, Melanie Moore, Cathy Moscariello, Coralys Negron, Ashley Nelson, Clio Nicolakis, Nancy Nishball, Melissa Nunez, Judith & John O'Brien, Jerry & Sue Olmsted, Sandra & Patrick O'Neill, Jamie Outlaw, Margaret Paulson, Stephanie Plude, Michele Pysz, Joan Radin, Sarah Rallis, Lianne Ramia, Laura Regan, John Rogers, Alison Rubelmann, Wendy Sabol, Laura Siglinger, Lauren Smith, Laurie Stewart, Patricia Tarasovic, Song Keng Teoh, Donna & Russell Tice, Susan Demelis Turots, Allegra Villers, Jan & Rich Wade, Joseph Warichar, Martin Wigglesworth, William & Pat Wilkin, Maia Wohlert, Darlene Zawisza, Amie Ziner, Ashlyn H, Brittany Elizabeth, Elise, Jackie T.

Other donations: Karen Brozek (Earth Day raffle), Nicole Caffrey (bird seed), Marcia Cohen (Earth Day raffle), Jennifer Garofalo (tanks), Boguslaw Gumowski (stuffed tiger), Heav'nly Donuts (Earth Day raffle), Jacqueline Lema and RWPH children (Earth Day raffle), Rick Meineke (bird seed), Viola Waldo (Earth Day Raffle and environmental education materials), John Webster (nature CDs).

Spring 2016 program presenters: Pam Mellitz (Yoga for a Healthy Mind and Body, Thursdays); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, Apr. 10, May 8, June 12); Food Corps (Family Organic Garden Program, Fridays, Apr. 15-June 17); Gaianne Jenkins, Bob Carruthers, and the New Haven Astronomical Society (Astronomy: Metonic Calendar, May 13); Karen Monger (Mushroom Identification for Beginners, May 21), Marlow Shami (Nature as a Healer, May 22); Tom Nedweden (Primitive Fire Skills, June 11); Che Cartafalsa (Summer Solstice Drumming, June 18); and of course Nature Center staff members for presenting many programs.

Earth Day participants: ANC staff, Khalil Alamin, Ansonia Cheer, AHS Life Skills, Kenny Belardinelli, Joan Bettencoart, Josh Brown & Noah Firth (Peabody on the Road), David Connelly, Tom Cox, Rich Di Carlo, Elm City Kettle Corn, Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Kasia Gumowski, Ray Hagan, Taylor Hopkins, Daryl Joseph, Keystone Leaders Club, Ruth Lazemby, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Leslie Mundo, Sherry Nerreau, Tom & Zach Noble, Scott Schuldt, Cathy Schulte, Allison & Michele Siglinger, Anne Smith, Mary Tolnai, Roseanna Tuccio, Rich & Jan Wade, Tyler Yurman, Kevin Zak & Sondra Harman, and all volunteers who contributed to our bake sale.

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

Birthday party presenters: Dan Bosques, Kathy Gambacini, Dawn Sotir, Rich Wade.

Spring 2016 Calendar of Events mailing crew: Sarah Colon, Tom Cox, Lisa Mandanici, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Millie Sholtys, Rich Wade.

Administrative assistance/clerical work: Joan Bettencourt, Raymond Hogan, Donna Lindgren, Corinne Lydem, Kate McMillan, Norma Jean Moore, Alli Schaefer, Pauline Sholtys, Alison Siglinger, Rich Wade.

Park cleanup and trail work: Kenny Belardinelli, Dan Bosques, Ruth Chartoff, Dan DeDomenico, Kennedy Center, Patrick Neumann, Target, UI Company.

Animal care: AHS Life Skills, Ruth Chartoff, Gary Cohen, Marcia Cohen, Dan DeDomenico, Kasia Gumowski, Kimberly Leite, Patrick Neumann, Steven Schmidt, Joy Tait, Lyndsey Tupy, Rich Wade, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman. 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: Kostoula Aldi, Greg & Cheryl Barker, AnnMarie Calder, Shannon Cash, Renée Crainer, Grace & Peter Halsey, Emma Newsom, Carlene O'Keefe, Adam & Allison Schaefer, Dawn Shields, Shortheim Family, Azure Dee Sleicher, Adam Spiewak, Joe & Liz Vicidomino, Marissa Westbrook, Eric & Melissa Wolf, Amie Ziner.

Friends' Membership Form Summer 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
- \$25 Family
- \$35 Sponsor
- \$100 Business/Organization
- \$100 Class/Troop
- \$150 Individual Life
- \$250 Family Life

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 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 (Summer 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@ansoniac.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



Redwing Pond House Preschool

The Redwing Pond House had a wonderful Springtime with the children! We spent our days exploring the trails and grounds surrounding the school, seeing new life and signs of animals everywhere we looked. We loved visiting the turtles and frogs in the pond, finding animal tracks on the trails, planting our vegetables and flower seedlings in our garden, and running in the sunshine and warm weather.

We are excited for the summer, and many friends will be joining us for our Summer Camps—if you have a 3-5 year old who would like to spend time this summer making new friends and having a lot of summer fun, give us a call. There is still space available, and we would love to have you!

Enrollment for this Fall has been great; we have many new friends joining us for preschool next year. We have so much to look forward to—this is a wonderful time for these children, and we have a beautiful place for them to begin learning, making new friends, and exploring.

Have a safe and happy summer!

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 supplement their summer diet!



The Ansonia Nature & Recreation Center's Playground Project

Hundreds of thousands of families and school children in our communities have enjoyed the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center's 150-acre park, hiked the miles of trails, and explored our Visitor Center for over 35 years.

A big part of the ANC has been our homegrown playground, built 25 years ago with support from the local community. On Monday, April 18, the playground was inspected by the City of Ansonia, deemed unsafe, and demolished. This event was expected, but the timing was not; it couldn't have come at a worse time, during our busiest seasons of spring and summer.

The park staff has relied on the playground to provide a second "Education Station." It is an important outdoor space at the park which engages physical activity and supplements the classroom space to allow multiple school classes to visit and benefit from our environmental programs on the same day. The Visitor Center cannot accommodate more than one class at a time, so having alternative outdoor spaces for teachers and students is crucial. The playground has also been used daily by park visitors, our afterschool program "Charger Club," summer camps, and during special events.

The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc., our 501c3 organization, has been fundraising for the last year and a half and has raised \$30,000 to date. It is time to continue the legacy and ensure the playground's longevity for future generations. We are asking for our community to come together again to rebuild a safe environment in which our children can play. Donations can be made to the Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI):

1. on our website ansonianaturecenter.org using PayPal—click on "Support Our New Playground" and then on "Donate"
2. on the gofundme page "Ansonia Nature Center Playground," <https://www.gofundme.com/y6ztttyt>
3. by checks mailed to FANCI, 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401.



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: Annuals for Summer Plantings • Gas Powered Leaf Blower • New Shed • Stackable Washer & Dryer • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Bird Feeders • Suet Cakes • Sunflower & Mixed Bird Seed • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Metal Leaf Rakes • Good Quality Hand Pruners & Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Petco, Staples, & Art Supply Stores • and **VOLUNTEERS for Filling & Monitoring Bird Feeders** • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Adopt a Trail • Exhibit Work • 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.

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