



# Friends' Focus Winter 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:** Beverly Bettencourt, Pat Compton, Kari Doering, John Hallet, Katharine Matthies Foundation (for playground), Carleton Newell, Erica Pelaccia, Seymour/Oxford rotary club (for watershed exhibit).

**Other donations:** Karen Brozek (Autumn Fest raffle baskets), Nicole Caffrey (bird seed), Barbara Hertel (bird seed), Pam Mellitz (art supplies), Janie Mirola (have a heart traps), Maia Wohler (suet).

**Fall 2015 program presenters:** Barbara and Peter Rzasa and Viola Waldo (Autumn Tree ID Hike, Oct. 10); Erast Markiw (Beekeeping, Oct. 10); Susan Wilson (Pet Loss Grief Support Group, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13); Sirius Coyote (Giovanni Ciarlo and Kathleen Sartor) (Musical Performance, Oct. 23); Rich Dicarlo (Watercolor Workshop, Oct. 24); "Bobcat" Carruthers and the New Haven Astronomical Society (Amateur Astronomy, Oct. 24); Jenny Dickson (Bats in Our Belfry, Nov. 13); Kathy Gambacini (It's Only Natural: Making Gifts out of Natural Materials, Nov. 14); Karianna Rosenberg (Tellabration, Nov. 22), Connecticut D.E.E.P. (Eagles of New England, Dec. 11); New Haven Bird Club (Annual Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 19).

**Autumn Fest participants and vendors:** AHS Life Skills students, Kenny & Mike Belardinelli, Joan Bettencourt, Daniel Bosques, Thomas Cox, Michael Craft, Kari Doering, Pat Evans, Kathy Gambacini, Jessica Goggins, Sterling Griffin, Jordan Hamuka, Sondra Harman, Taylor Hopkins, Rowan King, Patrick Lane, Donna Lindgren, Shane Long, Corinne Lydem, Ben & Ryan Madison, Maple View Farm, Ada Merrill, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Jean Roslonowski, Drew Shuptar-Rayvis; Anne Smith, Mary Tolnai, James & Jennifer Tully, Samantha Viele, Rich & Jan Wade, Viola & Kyle Waldo, Martin Wigglesworth, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman, Kevin Zak, Amie Ziner.

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

**Fall 2015 Calendar of Events mailing crew:** Tom Cox, Donna Lindgren, Corrine Lydem, Norma Jean Moore, Sherry Nerreau, Millie Sholtys, Anne Smith, Rich Wade.

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

**Park cleanup and trail work:** Joan Bettencourt, Nick Bowers, James Fourtin, Kennedy Center, Betty Laurella, Peter and Barbara Rzasa, Paul Sidorow.

**Eagle Scouts:** Matthew Kish, Steven Schmidt, Leonardo Scotti, James Stewart.

**Thanks for wonderful volunteer care provided to our scaly, furry, & feathered animals by:** Gary Cohen, Marcia Cohen, Kari Doering, Kimberly Leite, Kate Linderman, Robert Peck, Charlin Pereira, Stefanie Reyher, Jean Roslonowski, Steven Schmidt, Joy Tait, Rich Wade, Susan Wilson, Tyler Yurman, and AHS Life Skills students & mentors. Also many, many thanks to James Micinilio, DVM, & Countryside Veterinary Hospital; & Shary Siksay, DVM, & Stone Veterinary Hospital.

**Jr. & Sr. Rangers:** Abby Camillo, Henry Gleason, Sterling Griffin, Jordan Hamuka, Taylor Hopkins, Rowan King, Michael Kraft, Shane Long, Ben Madison, Ryan Madison, Anthony Nakis, Logan Rae, Michael Turaj, Samantha Viele.

**Thanks to the Ansonia Public Works Dept. for keeping our lights on and our pond flowing, landscaping and trail work, and much more!**



The Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center meet at the Nature Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. All FANCI members 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**



**New Members:** Anthony & Nicole Chick, Country Companions Veterinary Services, Jonathan & Maquel DeRubeis, Tracey Harding, Joshua Lemon & Jung Kim-Lemon, Jason & Aubrey Meyenburg, Anthony & Patricia Santagata, James & Kristen Turkosz, Laura Tutoli, Carissa Vega, Philip & Jennifer Wiczorkowski, Beverly & Gary Winger, Judi Young.

### Friends' Membership Form Winter 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) Winter 2016

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_  Animal Care  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

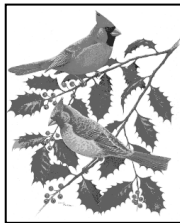
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks Payable to: Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc. (FANCI), 10 Deerfield Lane, Ansonia, CT 06401

### General Mailing List Update (Winter 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!!!



### Attention: Ion Bank Customers! 2016 Community Awards Program

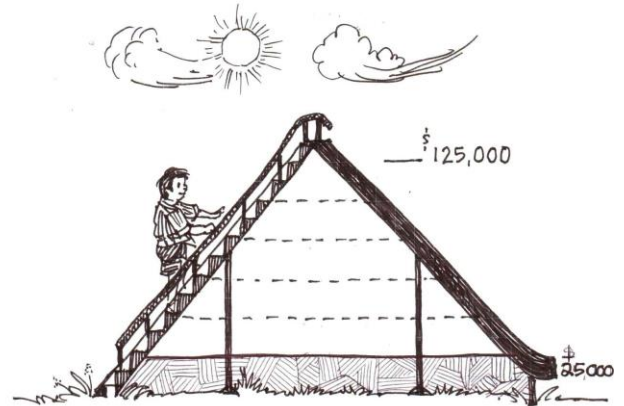
We know you support the Nature Center's mission and programs. If you are an Ion Bank customer, here's your chance to make your voice heard and help us by casting your vote for the **Friends of the Ansonia Nature Center, Inc.** as your favorite local non-profit organization! Voting for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Awards Program will take place from January 4 to March 31, 2016, and winners will be announced in May 2016.

The Community Awards Program, funded by the Ion Bank Foundation, allows the bank's customers to vote for their choice of deserving local non-profit organizations. The Foundation will donate a proportional share of \$50,000 to each non-profit that receives at least 1% of the total votes. There will also be awards of \$500 each to 20 randomly selected organizations that receive less than 1% of the votes.

Vote for your favorite non-profit organization at <https://ionbank.com/> or by filling out a ballot available at any of the bank's branch offices. Each customer may vote only once. Thanks for your support!

### 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. To date we have raised \$25,000, which included all the proceeds from Autumn Fest 2015. We are also working on another upcoming fundraising event for this project and welcome all those who would like to be part of this effort. If you would like to be part of our fund raising committee, please call Alison at 203-736-1053.



Winter 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 **Winter Campaign gift** directly supports those who make our playground better for you and the community. One way we make the Nature Center better for you is building a safe environment for your families to play.

All contributions made payable to FANCI.

**Nature Center Wish List:** Raffle Items for Maple Festival • Maple Sugaring Buckets and Spiles • Gas Powered Leaf Blower • Gas Powered Snow Blower • New Microwave for Nature Center Kitchen • New Shed • New Clean Gallon Jugs for Maple Sap Collection • Lightweight Aluminum Folding Hand Truck • Stackable Washer and Dryer • Laminator • Laptop Computer • Large Flat Screen for Powerpoint Presentations • Boardwalk Extension • Suet Cakes • Sunflower Seeds and Mixed Bird Seed • Natural History Lecture Series for Adults • Nature Days Scholarships for Ansonia Students • Bird Feeders • Food Processor • Good Quality Hand Pruners and Loppers • Gift Certificates to Petland, Staples, and Art Supply Stores • and **VOLUNTEERS for** Filling & Monitoring Bird Feeders • Co-Leading Natural History Walks • Nature Trail Monitoring • Critter Care • Adopt-A-Trail Groups • Exhibit Work • Reception Desk Duty • Nature Shop Cleaning & Sales • Playscape Restoration • Publicity Duties • After School Program Adult Volunteers • Playground Fundraising Committee Members • **Presenting FANCI Birthday Party Fundraisers!!!**

**Redwing Pond House Wish List:** Bird Seed • Overhead Projector • Magnets • Buttons • Gift Cards to Grocery, Craft, and Office Supply Stores. ☺ Thank you from the children and staff of the RWPB Preschool!

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.

### Redwing Pond House Preschool



The Redwing Pond House Preschool children have had an incredible Fall, and are ready for the chilly weather and explorations and fun in the snow! We have spent hours each day exploring and learning about our garden and the beautiful grounds and trails around our school. We are forming wonderful friendships and gaining an incredible understanding, respect, and love for each other and the changes occurring in nature just outside our classroom doors.

We continue to support our community with outstanding contributions to support our troops (made personal by fabulous homemade cards from the children!), and a successful collection of non-perishable foods to support the Spooner House pantry—we have incredibly kind and generous families!

We spent several weeks exploring the incredible colors of Fall, learning and growing together, and exploring pumpkins in ways we never imagined! We grew, harvested, cleaned, baked, counted and roasted seeds, carved, dried seeds for next year, and even all had a turn using a power drill to make holes in our pumpkin and lit it up as a classroom decoration!

We have been fortunate to have several parents of our students share their talents with the class. An incredibly exciting flyover by a pilot, music lessons from a music teacher, pottery lessons from a pottery teacher, visits from a parent literacy specialist, and great support and company in the classroom and on our daily hikes by our amazing group of parents!

We invited all of our families to a classroom celebration where our own version of "Stone Soup" and breads baked by the children were served. Following many lessons and discussions about healthy eating and our favorite soups, each child chose a vegetable to contribute to the soup we made together. It was a wonderful gathering, and a special time for us all. We look forward to a wonderful winter with our little learners!

Jacqueline Lema  
Director, RWPB Preschool



**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**
- CREEPY CRAWLY (INSECTS/SPIDERS)**
- 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.

