Volume: 17 Issue: 1 Jan • Feb • Mar 2016

Nature Calls

CHARLOTTE'S QUEST NATURE CENTER

in Pine Valley Park

http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

Special points of interest:

Scheduled Meetings

Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, Jun. 13, Jul. 11, Aug. 8, Sep. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14

Note: Meetings held the 2nd Monday of the month. No meetings in December. See inside for meeting locations.

Field Trips/Programs

See available field trip dates or

Schedule or register for upcoming programs or events

VISIT OUR ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR

at

http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/onlinecalendar.html

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman *Ellen Rugemer*
Vice-Chair *Bill Skinner*
Secretary *Donna Davis*
Treasurer *Marcia Bogash*

TRUSTEES

Ellen Frey
Barbara Trump
Justin Watts
Vince DePalmer
Robin Fishpaw
Bruce Smith
Lynne Sneeringer
Susie Wazniak

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Notes from the Chair

By Chairperson Ellen Rugemer

As a fresh new year begins there seems no better time to reflect on the year past. I want to first thank the many friends of Charlotte's Quest and wish you a happy, healthy New Year! I hope you were able to join us on our 1st Day Hike in what we hope will be an annual tradition. What a great way to start the New Year!

The Nature Center saw 2015 as a year of growth with the addition of new board members, a new Astronomy Observation building and new events. We are especially happy to partner with the Westminster Astronomy Society and look forward to many evenings under the stars. We also take this time to thank our loyal membership, program attendees, gracious host and dedicated players for Bocce Ball, our generous Spring Fest sponsors, our Board Members and of course our volunteers! With your help and support we continue to grow as we seek to manage and protect Manchester`s hidden gem.

While winter is often thought of as a time of rest, here at CQNC winter is also a time of planning and preparation. In fact planning for our

(**Notes** *continued on page 4*)

Naturalist News

By Naturalist Sherry Fisher Cole

Happy New Year! I am happy to be back again this year to teach programs for the general public, schools, and preschool, scouts or senior centers.

Please let your friends and family know about the nature programs we offer as we would love to welcome new members to the CQNC family.

We also want to offer more volunteer opportunities so please contact us via email if you would like to assist us with: programs, trail work, administrative duties, newsletter, and advertising.

I look forward to another year of exploring the natural world with you!

WISH LIST

taxidermy
desk
small table(2-3 foot)

SCHEDULED

JANUARY

January 11 — Monday

Manchester Parks Foundation Meeting

Where: Manchester Town Office, 3208 York St.

7 PM

Those 18 years of age or older are invited to attend.

FEBRUARY

February 8 — Monday

Manchester Parks Foundation Meeting

Where: Manchester Town Office, 3208 York St.

7 PM

Those 18 years of age or older are invited to attend.

Field mouse
http://www.arthursclipart.org/animaltracks/tracks/field%20mouse.gif

MARCH

SPRING ACTIVITIES

March 14 — Monday

Manchester Parks Foundation Meeting

Where: Manchester Town Office, 3208 York St.

7 PM

Those 18 years of age or older are invited to attend.

March 18 — Friday

Tot Trek

Where: Charlotte's Quest Nature Center

10 AM — 10:45 AM Ages: 18 mths. — 3 yrs.

Join us for our new preschool program which will feature a nature walk, animals and artifacts, and a story or craft. We have a different theme each month. This is a great beginner class for young learners.

Fee: $3.00/non-members, $2.00/members

Registration: 410-258-6357 or register online at http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

Nature Nook

Where: Charlotte's Quest Nature Center

11 AM — 12 PM Ages: 3 — 7

Enjoy stories, interactive activities with animals and artifacts, crafts, and a nature walk as we explore a different nature theme each month. This program is good for younger learners.

Fee: $3.00/non-members, $2.00/members

Registration: 410-258-6357 or register online at http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

Nature Explorers

Where: Charlotte's Quest Nature Center

12:30 AM — 2:30 PM Ages: 8 and up

Join us for activities, animal and artifact interactions, and nature hikes. We will explore different nature themes each month. The children will keep a journal and do other activities to complement the outdoor exploration we do each month. Students should be prepared for outdoor activities.

Fee: $4.00/non-members, $3.00/members

Registration: 410-258-6357 or register online at

(Spring classes continued on page 3)

(Spring classes continued from page 2)

http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

Ecoadventures

Where: Charlotte's Quest Nature Center

3:00 PM — 4:30 PM Ages: 10 and up

In this class, we will be exploring specific ecosystems such as polar regions, mountains, and oceans. This is a mini-series class that is held once a month, for 5 sessions through July. We encourage students to attend all sessions. The next series will run from August—December. Students will explore the regions through activities, worksheets, and artifact exploration. Students will present a class project at the end of the course and join Miss Sherry for a field trip. This class is more appropriate for learners who have reading and writing skills.

Fee: $4.00/non-members, $3.00/members

Registration: 410-258-6357 or register online at http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

EarthKids Club

Where: Charlotte's Quest Nature Center

4:30 PM — 5:30 PM Ages: 10 and up

This is a monthly program that allows students to directly participate in projects that affect positive change in the environment. Students can earn community service hours by joining us for this hands-on program. Feel free to bring your own gloves, boots, and other basic gardening tools. We will have some materials available as well.

Fee: free

Registration: 410-258-6357 or register online at http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

March 19 — Saturday

Easter Adventure Egg Hunt

Where: Charlotte's Quest Nature Center

10 AM Sharp Ages: walking—12

Children through age 12 will take part in an Egg Hunt with plastic eggs filled with goodies. There are four age groups: walking-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 that will be looking for the "prize egg" in their designated hunt areas throughout the park. Those who locate the "prize egg" win the grand prize for their age group. The hunt starts promptly at 10:00 AM, please plan to arrive at 9:45 AM.

Rain date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 10AM Sharp

Fee: none. Free-will offerings most appreciated. Check our website for postponement at http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/

New This Year

Charlotte`s Quest Photo Competition

Get your cameras warmed up and ready- Details to be announced in the next newsletter and online as soon as details are finalized. In the meantime, if you see something in the park that catches your eye, go ahead and snap the picture. Capture and share the beauty of Charlotte`s Quest Nature Center and Pine Valley Park. The Contest is designed to encourage people to discover park trails, scenic views and programs through nature photography. We hope to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the great outdoors of CQNC. Categories and prizes to be announced.

Think Spring: Returning in 2016

2nd Annual Plant Swap

Coming in May -In response to the many request we are happy to announce the return of CQNC`s Annual Plant Swap. Once again gardeners will be able to swap and share their favorite plants. Stay tuned for details.

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(**Notes** *continued from page 1)*

two biggest events of the year, the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Springfest, have already begun. Make 2016 the year you get involved and find out how much fun working behind the scenes can be. If you have never stuffed and hidden 4000 Easter eggs you don`t know what you are missing!

New people and new ideas keep things fresh and fun. Stop by and meet our volunteers, make new friends and get involved. Working on a single event is an easy way to get your feet wet without a long term obligation! Meetings are the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm and will be held at the town office in Jan, Feb, and March and at CQNC April-November. We are looking forward to meeting you, whether you can help out once a week, once a month or just at special events.

Welcome Suzie Wazniak

Congratulations to Suzie Wazniak who was elected to the Board of Directors in November. As a member of the leadership team, Suzie will help provide environmental educational opportunities to the people of this community. We appreciate your contribution and look forward to serving with you. Welcome!

Work of the Board of Directors

The board of directors is proud of the work we do here at CQNC. Since we are all volunteers, the hours we give to the nature center are scheduled between work and family obligations.
These hours are what it takes to help our nature center fulfill its mission. A special thanks to everyone on our board of directors for a miraculous job.

- MEETINGS — approximately 191 hours
- EVENTS approximately 456 hours
- MISCELLENEOUS — approximately 388 hours

Like us on Facebook at Charlotte`s Quest Nature Center for news on upcoming events and to connect with fellow nature lovers. We often share info and interesting articles from other sites, upcoming events, special cautions and advisories, and calls for volunteer help. It is also an easy way to communicate with us, but please use the private message feature to do so.

Like Us On facebook

Gate Opening and Closing

Many people have asked about the gate being closed and if that means the park is closed. We don`t have the resources to have the gate opened and closed each day, but the park is open 365 days a year during daylight hours. At this time the gate is opened during programs and special events only. At all other times parking is available at the Walnut Street entrance or in the area in front of the gate at the end of Wilhelm Lane. Trails can be accessed from either entrance so don`t let a closed gate keep you from enjoying the park.

Winter Bird Watching

Oh the joys of winter bird watching. While winter may not be your favorite season it offers opportunities for bird lovers to bring their favorite species in close. No need to get bundled up or spend hours searching the sky, a full feeder will soon turn your yard into a hub bub of beautiful birds.

Find a spot where you can enjoy the activity from the comfort of your home, choose a feeder, fill it with choice seed and let the show begin. Try and pick a place with some built in protection, near a bush or large tree. You also want to have the feeder out of reach of the family pets. A good choice for beginners is a sunflower feeder. Filled with black oil sunflower seeds these feeders will attract a variety of local birds including chickadees, cardinals, woodpeckers, blue jays, titmice, nuthatches and goldfinch. Avoid the cheaper commercial mixes as they contain a lot of filler seed which ends up going to waste. Of course some seed will still end up on the ground, which will be appreciated by ground feeders such as mourning doves and juncos.

Many people get discouraged when the "bully" birds or squirrels raid the feeders and scare away the smaller more colorful birds. There are many squirrel proofing methods available and some actually work. One trick is to purchase a feeder with a built in wire cage so

(**Birds** *continued on page 8*)

Thank You

We want to extend our appreciation of these special people and businesses that have given of their time, talents and or funds during this past year in support of Charlotte's Quest Nature Center.

2015 MEMBERSHIP

John Sies
Stuart & Connie Bunyea
Darlene Haggerty
Stephen & Barbara Israel
Barbara Trump
Lee Hanson
Dale & Marge Gruner
Karen & Donnie Nott
Ruth Sies
Robin Fishpaw
Weinrich Family
Lauren Bumstead
Holly Fowler
Carol Miller
Miller's Food Market
Eleanor Donohue
Jim & Donna Davis
Regina Northan
Carolyn Hetterick
Jeannie Hamilton
Ellen Frey
Lynn Sneeringer
Ellen Rugemer
Bob and Carrol Thornton
Judith Reed
DRM Associates

(**Thank You** *continued on page 6*)

(*Thank You* continued from page 5)

Kate Roenick
Jan Cramer
Michael Kreseski
Daniel Mislak
Mr. & Mrs. William Skelley, Jr.
Ayres Family
Howard & Carol Hose
St. Bartholomew's Church
Randall & Kristin Poth
Lori Friedman
Boynton Family
Howard & Sharon Miller
Marcia & Phil Bogash

2015 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Town of Manchester
Manchester Veterinary Services
St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Miller's Food Market
Reptile Wonders (The Nature Center on the Go)
Forever Green
Echardt's Funeral Home
Lineboro/Manchester Lion's Club
Manchester Volunteer Fire Company
North Carroll Auxiliary Police
Carroll County Government - Resource Management
Mc Daniel Honey Farm
Christian Farmers Outreach
Westminster Astronomical Society
Mr. D's Magic
Stephen Israel-Archaeological Investigation
Master Gardner's of Carroll County
Maryland Department of Natural Resources-

(*Thank You* continued on page 7)

Friends of Charlotte's Quest
CQNC Membership

Become a friend of Charlotte's Quest Nature Center today by joining the Manchester Parks Foundation, Inc., the caretakers of Charlotte's Quest…fill out the form below and send a check payable to Manchester Parks Foundation. Mail to Membership, PO Box 864, Manchester, MD 21102

Your membership gift allows us to continue our mission of environmental education, protection of our natural resources, restoration of native plants and animals, and the creation of a more diverse habitat. Help us to continue to advance in our teaching and in better serving our area schools and the community.

Members play a vital role in the financial support of Charlotte's Quest. By becoming a member of the Manchester Parks Foundation you receive the following benefits:

- **First priority to sign up for the Center's most popular programs.**
- **Issues of Nature Calls, the nature center's quarterly newsletter.**
- **Discounts on Nature Center program fees.**
- **An opportunity to serve on the Manchester Parks Foundation's Board of Directors. as well as the opportunity to vote your choice for elected official for the Board of Directors at the bi-annual January Election meetings.**
- **The opportunity to vote your choice for elected official for the Board of Directors at their biennial January Election meetings.**

Family	$15	Contributing	$50
Individual	$10	Sustaining	$100
Senior Citizen (62+)	$8	Life	$250
Senior Couple	$12	Patron	$500
Full-time Student	$10	Benefactor	$1000
Organization	$25		

Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____(W) _____

Office Use Only

Date Rec._____ Check #_____
Dues Amt. Rec._____ New Renewal _____
Date _____

CQNC Showcasing Highly Valued Partnerships

By Ellen Frey

In our quarterly issues of our newsletter, Nature Calls, we will be promoting those who are partnering with the nature center. This is our way of demonstrating our appreciation of these local businesses, organizations and individuals for giving back to our community through their support of Charlotte's Quest Nature Center. Please take time to thank our partners who have generously given of their time, talents and services.

Featuring:

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2930 Hanover Pike
Manchester, Maryland 21102
Church Rectory
3071 Park Avenue
Manchester, Maryland 21102
410.239.8881

ASAP PORT-A-POTS, INC.

Division of Hughes Trash Removal, Inc.
4501 Dave Rill Rd.
P.O. Box 259
Hampstead, MD 21074
410.374.6467 | 410.848.4747 | 1.877.374.6467
www.hughestrashremoval.com/

MANCHESTER VETERINARY SERVICES

3269 Main Street
Manchester, Maryland 21102
Hampstead, MD 21074
410.374.6522
Julie Callahan, DVM
Jeff Callahan, DVM
www.manchestervetservices.com/

Preventative and Wellness Care
New Patients Welcome

TOWN OF MANCHESTER

3208 York Street
Manchester, Maryland 21102
Hampstead, MD 21074
410.239.3200
Town Manager: Steve Miller
http://manchestermd.gov/

ALL *Naturalist Programs*
REQUIRE PRIOR REGISTRATION

Please register no later than two days prior to the scheduled program
to allow the naturalist time to prepare for your child or children.

Some of our other Naturalist-led programs also require prior registration, if in doubt please register. For your convenience please use our online registration form or call 410-258-6357 or 410-374-3395.

All programs are subject to change, please check our website for additional information or see our online calendar at:

http://www.charlottesquestnaturecenter.com/onlinecalendar.html/

(***Thank You*** *continued from page 6)*

Forest Service
John Sies-Recycled paper making
Special Olympics of Carroll County
Sherry Fisher-Cole, Naturalist
High Ridge 4H Club
Power Take-Off Club
Carroll County 4H Rabbit Club
Vince De Palmer-Bocce Ball Tournaments

IN-KIND SERVICES

Quantum Internet Services
ASAP Port-a Pot Services

(***Thank You*** *continued on page 8)*

Charlotte's Quest
NATURE CENTER
3400 Wilhelm LN, P O Box 864
Manchester, MD 21102

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Manchester Parks Foundation to be stewards of the environment by protecting the watershed area and our precious natural resources, by teaching environmental education to the public, by the restoring of the native plants and animals, and by maintaining a diverse natural world.

(**Thank You** *continued from page 7*)

PROJECTS

Permanent Telescope Building and Activities

EVENT SPONSORS

ASAP Port-a-Pots
Fun Events of Taneytown
Eckhardt's Funeral Home
St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church
Miller's Food Market
Longview Nursing Home
Dr. & Mrs. Borelli
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Smith
Manchester Veterinary Services

We couldn't continue without your assistance

(**Birds** *continued from page 5*)

that only the small birds can get to the seed. Of course you can always put up more than one feeder so the larger birds can have their own food and there are special squirrel feeders available as well. Whatever kind of feeder you choose, the birds will thank you with a colorful show all winter long.