

February 2015

The first of occasional newsletters to be issued by the



Friends of Little Hunting Creek

SAVE THE DATES!

- **APRIL 11 CREEK CLEANUP.** High tide is at 1:15 pm, and the cleanup will be held from 9 am to noon. As usual, we will distribute plastic bags and gloves in advance. Please contact betsy@folhc.org with questions.
- **APRIL 18: Annual Meeting and Potluck Awards Banquet.**

LEARN ABOUT THE WILY SNAKEHEAD!

Saturday, 2 pm, Feb. 22, Huntley Meadows Park.

The non-native Northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) has been seen in Little Hunting Creek and other northern Virginia waterways.

At the next quarterly meeting of the Friends of Dyke Marsh, John Odenkirk, fish biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), will explore the world of the snakehead—its characteristics, impacts, and future—and discuss the future and health of the Potomac River fishery.

This program is cosponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Assawoman Fishing Unlimited Club, and the Friends of Little Hunting Creek. It is free and open to the public. The Norma Hoffman Visitor Center (703-768-2525) is at 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, Virginia 22306. Please join us!

JOIN FRIENDS OF LITTLE HUNTING CREEK

Are you interested in joining the Friends of Little Hunting Creek? We organize annual cleanups on and along the creek, and seek to preserve open space and expand recreational opportunities for local residents.

Visit www.folhc.org for more information.

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please fill out the application on the back of this newsletter and mail it with a check for the \$5 annual dues (made out to FOLHC) to FOLHC Treasurer, 8707 Stockton Parkway, Alexandria VA 22308.

WETLAND PARCEL PROTECTED

Last fall, a parcel of land entirely within the Resource Protection Area of Little Hunting Creek that is mostly wetlands was threatened with development by an architect who wanted to build a house on stilts. Friends of Little Hunting Creek rallied to the cause of preservation. 62 Stratford Landing neighbors added their names to a letter of opposition sent to Supervisor Hyland, and 35 neighbors and friends made generous pledges to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to buy the parcel and preserve it. Our two week "pledge drive" raised about \$42,000. Thanks to all who pledged or signed the letter—you proved yourselves true friends of the Creek!

Our pledges turned out to be unnecessary. After we wrote our letter, the asking price was dropped and neighbors Emily and Pat Paterson (who live directly across from the parcel) were able to buy it. That's very good news, because Pat and Emily want to preserve it as open space and habitat, not build on it.

We proved that the Friends of Little Hunting Creek have the desire, will, and means to act to preserve open space along the creek, and that we have an able and enthusiastic partner in Peggy Stevens, Executive Director of NVCT.

ENJOY OUR WEBSITE? www.folhc.org

Send your suggestions, photos, comments to paul@folhc.org.

Friends of Little Hunting Creek



www.folhc.org

Friends of Little Hunting Creek Application for membership

Name: _____

Class of membership:

Junior (age between 12 and 18) ____ -- non-voting member, annual dues \$1.00

Class I (age 18 or over) ____ -- voting member, annual dues \$5.00

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone number: _____

Alternate Phone number: _____

Send email to: _____

“I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Inc.”

(The Bylaws are found here: www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/images2014/folhcbylaws.pdf)

(Signed) _____

Date: _____