



Friends of Little Hunting Creek

10 February 2023 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE: CREEK CLEANUP
APRIL 15. Details to follow.

ANNUAL MEETING

When: 1 p.m., Saturday, March 4

Where: Multi-purpose room, Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road

We will elect members of the Board and discuss matters of interest to members. (Find directors' bios [here.](#)) To join, bring your filled-out application form (back page of this newsletter) with a check for your dues. Better yet, mail them in advance.

After the meeting, at 1:45 pm, will be a **DEMONSTRATION AND PRESENTATION FEATURING LIVE OWLS.** Secret Garden Birds and Bees will bring a Barn Owl, a Screech Owl, a Great Horned Owl, and a Barred Owl for you to see up close. Ms. Dennison will describe how owls make a living, and talk about wildlife rehab and conservation. **FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.** This is an event the whole family will enjoy!



Live owls will be the star of the show by Liz Dennison of Secret Garden Birds and Bees.

Improving creek access and wildlife habitat along Little Hunting Creek

Over the past few years, the Friends partnered with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association to improve access to the Little Hunting Creek Preserve, a two acre parcel owned by NVCT at 8610 Stockton Parkway, in Stratford Landing. We invested funds to install two benches, signs, and three wood duck boxes. Soon it will be time for wood ducks to take up residence; contact Randy Myers at randolphjmyers@gmail.com if you're interested in monitoring. Please do not disturb or open the nesting box.



At the grand opening celebration last Fall.

We hold regular winter workdays on Sunday afternoon to remove English Ivy, Wintercreeper, Japanese Honeysuckle, and other invasive vines that displace native plants and threaten trees on the preserve. If you'd like to join us, email info@folhc.org.



Volunteers removing ivy at the preserve on Feb. 5th.

Friends of Little Hunting Creek, New Gum Springs Citizens' Association, and Nature Forward also toured sites in Gum Springs and Martin Luther King Park where public access to the creek might be provided. The Fairfax County Park Authority has designated funds to begin the necessary studies (including archaeological studies) and design work on this project.

We would like to partner with your neighborhood, too, if there's a spot along the creek which could be made more welcoming to neighbors and better habitat for wildlife. Contact us at info@folhc.org.

Little Hunting Creek offers a rich habitat for a wide variety of birds. A printable list of the 137 bird species observed by our neighbors along Stockton Parkway can be found [here](#). For those new to birding, the Audubon Society offers a useful [guide](#). More information about Wood Ducks may be found [here](#), while Cornell Lab Nest Watch offers a "[Nest Monitoring Manual](#)".



Photo: Jeff at JSJ Photography

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article or topic, or a photo you'd like to share? We'd love photos of nesting eagles or herons. Contact the Editor at info@folhc.org.

Friends of Little Hunting Creek, a 501(c)(3) organization
2023 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The mission of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek is to encourage the preservation of open space, restoration of riparian habitat, improvement in water quality in the Little Hunting Creek watershed, and promote to stewardship and opportunities for recreational enjoyment of Little Hunting Creek by nearby neighbors and the public.

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: _____

Send email to: _____

Are you are interested in volunteering for any of the following activities? Please check if “yes”:

____ Contributing articles to the newsletter

____ Organizing annual cleanups in my neighborhood

____ Participating in annual cleanups in my neighborhood

____ Removing invasive plants in natural areas

____ Planting native trees and shrubs

____ Other—Please describe: _____

What neighborhood do you live in? _____

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

(Bylaws are found at <http://www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/images2022/bylaws-rev2022.pdf>)

(Signed) _____

Date: _____

Mail with your check to: Treasurer, Friends of Little Hunting Creek, 8707 Stockton Pkwy, Alexandria, 22308. (If you’re not sure whether you’ve paid your 2023 dues, email the Treasurer at paul@folhc.org.)