



The Arlington ENVIRONMENT

www.arlingtonenvironment.org

Locations throughout the community will be featured in a scavenger hunt

Discover Arlington During ACE's 25th Anniversary

Join fellow residents in a celebration of Arlington's culture, communities, history, and natural features exploring Arlington's trails, bus routes, parks and neighborhoods. There are two ways to participate in this fun-filled scavenger hunt for people of all ages: (1) an ongoing contest during the month of May and (2) a June 7 contest in conjunction with the Arlington National Trails Day celebration. This event is being organized by ACE in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

Sound intriguing? By visiting various locations throughout Arlington and answering questions, participants will be eligible to win various prizes donated by community organizations and businesses. The May contest has 25 questions. The entry form will be available May 1 and all entries must be postmarked by May 31. For the prize drawing, the entries received will be weighted by the number of questions answered correctly and the number of locations traveled to by alternative transportation. And you don't necessarily need to be present at the prize drawing to win.

Locations for the May Discover

Arlington contest include Benjamin Banneker Park, the Dark Star Park public art piece in Rosslyn, Long Branch Nature Center, the Uncommon Market, and the Water Pollution Control Plant.

The contest is different from a typical scavenger hunt in that participants will not be collecting items. Instead they will be answering

questions at each location related to the history, wildlife, culture, and features of Arlington.

On June 7, in collaboration with the Arlington National Trails Day celebration, there will be a second scavenger hunt event with the locations focused around Bluemont Park and Rosslyn Gateway Park.

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At-A-Glance: Discover Arlington and National Trails Day

- **May 1 - 31:** Scavenger hunt contest in locations throughout Arlington. Entry form available at www.arlingtonenvironment.org beginning May 1.
- **June 7:** National Trails Day Celebration, "Healthy Trails, Healthy People," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bluemont Junction Park and Rosslyn Gateway Park. Call 703-525-0168 for more details.
- **June 7:** Scavenger hunt contest at Bluemont Junction Park and Rosslyn Gateway Park in conjunction with National Trails Day celebration, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Call 703-228-6427 for more details.
- **June 7:** ACE 25th Anniversary Open House, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Arlington Central Library auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street. Food, music, prizes, children's activities. Call 703-228-6427 for more details.



Environmental Extravaganza

The annual Arlington County Environmental Extravaganza is taking place on Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Please join your neighbors in disposing of household hazardous waste, old bikes, and computer equipment. All of the activities will take place rain or shine.

- **Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste:**

Get rid of your unwanted hazardous waste materials. Products that are being accepted include unwanted paint products, flammable solvents, automotive fluids, garden chemicals, household cleaners, and many other flammable, poisonous or corrosive household products. This service is open to Arlington residents only.

- **Computer Recycling:**

Recycle your unused, non-current com-



puter equipment. The *Subtractions* company will be accepting computers, printers, keyboards, scanners, and copiers. Monitors and televisions will also be accepted but for a fee. The fee varies from \$5 to \$30 according to size of the equipment.

- **Bicycles:** Donate your old or unused bicycle to Pedals for Progress. A \$10 donation per bike is requested to offset the shipping charges.

Please help meet the goal of collecting 150 bikes.

- **Compost Bins:** Purchase a compost bin made from recycled materials. Each bin was created from decommissioned refuse cart and will be available for sale on a first come first serve basis. Cost is \$10 per bin.

For more information please contact 703-228-6570. We look forward to seeing you there. ♠

Discover Arlington

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This event will include a smaller scavenger hunt with the locations focused on Arlington's trails.

Also on June 7, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., will be the ACE 25th anniversary celebration at the Arlington Central Library. The event will include an open house with food and music. Prizes will also be awarded to the winners of both scavenger hunt contests.

As of this publication, ACE's partner organizations for Discover Arlington include the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Arlington County Board, Arlington County Department of Public Works, Arlington County Libraries, Arlington County Parks, Recreation and Community Resources, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Transportation Partners, Friends of the W&OD, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Sun Gazette, and WALK Arlington.

To receive an entry form for Discover Arlington visit www.arlingtonenvironment.org or call 703-228-6427. Entry forms are available beginning May 1. ♠

Save a Tree - Receive this Newsletter via E-mail

If you would like to receive *The Arlington Environment* in a PDF file via e-mail, please let us know. Send your name and e-mail address to the ACE office at office@arlingtonenvironment.org

The Arlington Environment ©2003 is published quarterly by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, 3308 South Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22206, 703-228-6427, fax: 703-228-6407, e-mail: office@arlingtonenvironment.org, Web: www.arlingtonenvironment.org. It is intended as an educational and informational resource on environmental issues impacting Arlington County citizens, businesses, and government. Submissions are welcome. Reproduction is encouraged when duly credited.

Editor, *Elenor Hodges*

Design and nameplate, *Cynthia A. Zurmühlen*

Learn about ACE volunteer opportunities! Join our Yahoo groups listserv. Send an e-mail message to ArlingtoniansforaCleanEnvironment-subscribe@yahoo.com.



Dealing With Wildlife

By Tereza Marks

Spring—the season of rebirth—is once again upon us. This time of year animals of all types are mating, breeding, and having young. Unfortunately, in our urban landscape, many of us have encounters with wildlife that can be dangerous either for us or for them. However, there are some basic guidelines that we can follow to make these encounters safe.

The first rule of thumb is that in

Urban wildlife profiles

Virginia, it is illegal to keep wildlife without an appropriate wildlife rehabilitation permit issued by the state Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Protection of many birds is also afforded under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and it is necessary to possess a federal permit issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep these animals.

There are many reasons for this—first, wildlife don't make good pets as they are wild animals and will not learn tricks or follow the rules. Second, caring for wildlife is hard and time consuming. Different animals have different needs. Baby birds, for example, need to be fed every hour from sunrise to sunset. Needless to say, making multiple diets and providing hourly feeding is something for which most people don't have time. Wildlife fed im-

proper diets can develop nutritional deficiencies, illnesses, or disease.

Therefore, no matter how cute a baby animal may be it is in the best interest of the animal not to keep it.

There are a few things that you can do for wildlife:

- Contrary to what you may have heard, a baby bird can be touched by a human without risking abandonment by its mother. Most songbirds have a very weak sense of smell. Therefore, if you find a baby bird that is uninjured and not hot, cold or covered with parasites, and it can be returned to the nest, do so. Baby birds have the best chance of survival with their mothers.
- Sometimes wind storms will cause a whole nest with babies and all to fall out of the tree or shrub. The nest can be returned to the tree. Use a plastic butter dish with holes punched in the bottom, to allow for water drainage, as a new nest. Secure the dish to a limb and return the original nesting material and babies. Watch to make sure the parents return.
- If you find a baby animal that feels very cold to the touch, warm it up by placing it near a heating pad or hot water bottle. Make sure the baby does not touch the heating device and that there are layers of towels between it and the baby. Put the baby in a dark quiet place. Then, contact a wildlife rehabilitator. Do not ever feed or water a baby animal

unless told to do so by a wildlife rehabilitator. Feeding a cold baby can kill it.

- If you find an injured animal, put it in a box or other non-airtight container and place it in a dark, quiet place. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator.
- If you see a baby bird that has a short tail and hops around a lot, making it almost impossible to catch, it is probably a fledgling. The fledgling stage is the stage at which the baby bird has left the nest but is still being fed by the parents—kind of like a teenager. The bird is best left alone or moved close by under a shrub or bush. Outside dogs and cats should be kept away from the area. A fledgling will not remain in the nest, so don't return it to the nest. If you watch from a nearby window, you should see an adult bird fly down to the youngster every once in a while. If you don't see an adult after a few hours, contact a wildlife rehabilitator. Often the adult is around from the beginning and will scream at you if you attempt to catch or get too close to the young on the ground.
- Keep cats indoors. Hundreds of animals are killed each year by outdoor cats. Cats have the instinct to hunt and attack. A cat's saliva is toxic to wildlife and any animal bitten by a cat, even if there are no obvious bite marks, needs to be put on antibiotics immediately. Such animals must

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be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator or they could die.

- Birds often fly into windows. If birds fly into a window on a regular basis, place a cutout or other object in the window to make the presence of the window obvious to the bird. If a bird flies into the window and is down on the ground, pick the bird up and place in a box in a dark, quiet place. Check back in an hour or so to see if the bird has regained consciousness. Often birds are merely stunned and will quickly return to normal. If the bird remains unconscious or has any signs of trauma, check with a wildlife rehabilitator.
- People often find animals nesting in areas that are a nuisance to us. For example, starlings often nest in dryer vents and squirrels in attics. For birds in a vent or other area, make a suitable place for the nest very close to the original location. For example, a milk jug, with a hole, can be secured near the opening and the nest moved into the jug. The parents should find the nest, but always check to be sure. Squirrels often have more than one nest location and can be coaxed to move by making loud noises. Give them time to move and make sure they are gone. Then go around the house looking for any opening that the animals may have used to enter. Seal the opening so that it doesn't happen again.

Obviously, there are many
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Wildlife Habitat #23743

This backyard wildlife habitat in the Arlington Forest neighborhood near Lubber Run Park features a woodland restoration on a steep slope. When purchased six years ago, this hillside property and its trees were matted and covered with English ivy and other invasive exotic weeds. Over the past four years, the invasives were gradually removed and stepping stones were installed for access up and down the ravine. Now it is home to many species of shade-tolerant Virginia wildflowers, ferns, trees, and shrubs. Also present are a pond and fountain, nesting sites, and native food sources. ♠



Owner Paul Kovenock enjoys the beauty and serenity of his wildlife habitat site.

To learn more about this habitat, join ACE and the Virginia Cooperative Extension RiP and Tree Stewards programs for a free presentation, "Restore Your Yard - Get Rid of the Invasives - Bring in the Wildlife!" Monday, April 28, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington.

For more information about the Arlington Community Wildlife Habitat project or to request a free packet of resource materials, contact ACE at 703-228-6427 or office@arlingtonenvironment.org.



ACE Presents Sustainability Awards

By Christopher Chern

On March 15, ACE recognized three exceptional students at the Northern Virginia Regional Science Fair with the ACE Sustainability Award. The purpose of the ACE Sustainability Award is “to promote and reward creative thinking aimed at solving critical environmental problems.”

First place was awarded to 13-year old Matthew Vilhauer of Blessed Sacrament Catholic School. Vilhauer’s project assessed the use of an alternative farming method on the environment and the associated implications. Vilhauer reasoned that if more farmers used this method, it would decrease the effects of global warming. Inspired by a *Washington Post* article, Vilhauer said the most difficult aspect of his project, “was

where to get the supplies needed.”

Second place was awarded to 17-year old Jean Folsom of Yorktown H.S. Folsom’s project focused on the the pollution-removing ability of water hyacinths. She demonstrated how a water hyacinth can remove toxic chemicals from the environment. Living near Donaldson Run Park, Folsom has observed pollution first-hand and thinks proper action should be taken. Folsom also believes, “it is bad to use chemicals to eliminate chemical problems.” Inspired by a 9th grade biology trip to the swamps, Folsom believes that her future major will be concentrated in the environmental science field.

Third place was awarded to 12-year old Leslie Keller of H.B. Woodlawn School. Keller received inspiration for her project when she

noticed an unsightly over-growth of English ivy in her yard. In her project, Keller determined effective means of controlling the ivy and researched proper removal techniques. Her project concluded that pulling the ivy, including the root, was one of the most effective measures.

Four ACE volunteers, Christopher Chern, Eric Harold, Ed Milch, and Connie Sancetta, helped judge the science fair projects. The quality of projects displayed at this year’s science fair affirms students’ interest in environmental issues within the community. ACE is looking forward to continued collaboration with the school community to increase student awareness and interaction between students and their environment. Congratulations to all participants! ♠

Wildlife Rehabilitation Guidelines and Tips

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more scenarios in which people and wildlife can come into contact and they can’t all be covered in this short article. For more information on controlling nuisance wildlife situations, check out the book *Wild Neighbors* by the Humane Society of the United States. If you have trouble with a nuisance animal, the best approach to controlling nuisance wildlife is to figure out what is attracting the animal and eliminate the attractant or make the attractant less pleasant.

Homeowners and pest control companies are required by state law to have a permit to trap various species outside of their trapping

seasons. These permits will require that the animal be killed or released at the point of capture; they may not be relocated. In fact, pest control companies and homeowners, unless taking an animal to a wildlife rehabilitator, are not allowed to transport wildlife. Relocation is never a humane solution to a nuisance wildlife problem; relocated animals don’t know where to locate food or denning areas. Relocated wildlife may also be attacked by those animals in residence seeking to defend their territories or babies may be left behind when parents are removed. Remember, wild animals were here first and are only trying to survive in our increasingly urban communities.

Therefore, the best solution is to modify the area so the animal doesn’t create a problem anymore.

Local wildlife rehabilitators are an excellent source of information about wildlife. In Northern Virginia, the Wildlife Rescue League provides a hotline (703-440-0800) that can put you in touch with a knowledgeable volunteer or provide referrals to wildlife rehabilitators. In Maryland, both Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg and Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary in Bowie can provide advice with wildlife problems. Many animal shelters, nature centers, and veterinarians can also provide assistance with wildlife situations. ♠



Discovering Arlington's Watersheds

The 2003 ACE Annual Meeting took place on March 6 and brought together a wide range of individuals around the theme of "Discovering Arlington's Watersheds." The program featured a keynote presentation by Paul Ferguson, Arlington County board chair. The evening at Arlington Central Library also included a game of Watershed Jeopardy, a map so participants could find their watershed, and several displays and exhibits.

Paul Ferguson's presentation covered various Arlington County initiatives to improve the quality of Arlington's streams. He described the recently adopted Arlington County Chesapeake Bay Ordinance which includes an expansion of listed stream segments resulting in more resource protection areas (RPAs), or land within a 100-foot buffer around streams and wetlands. He talked about some of the components of the county's watershed management plan such as increasing staff for site inspections and implementing a high-efficiency street sweeping program.

Also mentioned was the Green Building program in which developers receive incentives for incorporating various building practices that promote energy efficiency, water efficiency, and waste reduction. Mr. Ferguson's remarks closed with congratulations to ACE for 25 years.

The available exhibits provided information on watersheds, Arlington streams, and volunteer opportunities. Exhibitors included Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, Arlington County Park Rangers, and Potomac Overlook Regional Park. Refreshments were provided courtesy of Whole Foods Market.

ACE members voted in nine people to serve on the board of directors. Congratulations to the new 2003-2004 board members, listed to the right.

The meeting closed with an announcement for the ACE 25th anniversary celebration event, Discover Arlington (see p. 1), as well as upcoming spring volunteer opportunities. Thanks to everyone who joined us for this event. ♠

Four Mile Run Stream Cleanup

ACE and the Arlington County Park Rangers appreciate everyone who helped at one of the seven cleanup locations on Saturday, March 8! Thanks to all the volunteers who participated, we removed 1.3 tons of trash from the stream.



Thanks to Our Supporters

ACE Board of Directors: Charles Bianchi, Christopher Chern (student representative), Laura Dely, David Fitzpatrick, Eric Harold, Mary Anne Kelly, Kai Robertson, Carlos Stern, Denise Taranov

Webmaster Jessica Wexler

Committee and Program Directors: Janine Finnell (Community Wildlife Habitat) and Marty Nielsen (Tree Steward Liaison)

Stream Stewards: Judi Allen, Anna Brown, Robin Brown, Charles Chapin, Leigh Goldstein, Darryl Hatheway, Robin Hopes, Meg Klekner, Jessica Louton, Michelle Mandolia, Jen McDonnell, Nannette Parsons, Ida Peterson, Leigh Rodes, Lisa Smith, Stephanie Thornton, Brian Wilson, Brian Wrenn

Donors: Aurora Hills Woman's Club, Cynthia Dahlin, Merrifield Garden Center, Laura Monti, Martin Ogle, Sunita Satyapal, Whole Foods Market, Jay Wilson, Women's Club of Arlington

Volunteers this Quarter:

Groups: Girl Scout Troops 422 and 3515

Individuals: Melissa Avenius, Susan & Sheldon Avenius, Erick Benitez, Joan Blake, Pat Blyer, Janine Finnell, Josephine Fleming, Cindy Gimbel, Claudia A. Gomez, Fred Grady, Miles Grant, Louise Guey-Lee, Elaine Gurian, Meredith Gutowski, Jennifer Hallmartel, Brenda Harryoria, Amber Hodgen, Carl Hodgen, Don Hodgen, Preston Holt, Tanesla Johnson, Jori Keeler, John Kipps, Mary Ann Lawler, Karen Loar, Phil Loar, Tereza Marks, Mary Mekosh, Kerrie Morse, Victoria Phelps Keish, Sarah Prescott, Alexi Remnek, Leigh Rodes, Joel Salter, Jim Serfis, Brenda Stanley, Sharon Sundial, Viola Tovar, Kevin Walker, Michael Zuiker

ACE is grateful to our supporters, and we apologize if we overlooked anyone!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

Bike to Work Day. Friday, May 2 (times vary). Fifteen pit-stops in the region including two Arlington locations: Rosslyn Gateway Park and Crystal City Water Park. Both avid and novice bicycle enthusiasts are invited to learn more about bicycle commuting. There will be refreshments, prizes, live entertainment, and an event t-shirt with registration by April 18. The event is free. To participate call 202-628-2500 or visit www.waba.org. Bike to Work Day is an annual event designed to raise public awareness of the viability of bicycle commuting in the Washington region.

Alexandria Earth Day. Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Four Mile Run Park. The event will include a stream cleanup, exotic plant removal, nature walk, storm drain marking, and youth activities. Volunteers needed for all activities. For more information and to register, visit the Web site www.alexearthday.org.

ACE Stream Cleanup. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to noon. Barcroft Park, 4100 S. Four Mile Run Drive. A fun outdoor activity that helps improve our waterways. To register, contact ACE at 703-228-6427 or volunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org.

Discover Arlington. A fun-filled scavenger hunt for people of all ages. Ongoing contest: May 1 - 31. National Trails Day contest: June 7. To receive an entry form and find out more visit www.arlingtonenvironment.org or call 703-228-6427. Entry form available May 1.

ACE 25th Anniversary Celebration. Saturday, June 7, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Arlington Central Library auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street. Join ACE for an open house with food, music, door prizes, children's activities and more. Call 703-228-6427 for more information.

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