

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council, Inc
13555 Beaver Dam Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

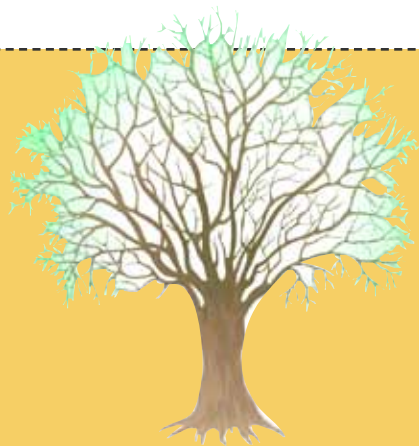


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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SIGN UP A FRIEND, TOO!

Become one of the sturdy branches on our membership tree and help keep our Council strong. If you are already a member, look at the expiration date and letter on your mailing label to check your membership status. "C" means current, "E" means expired, and "X" means this is your last issue unless you renew now. Use this form to join or renew, and give a copy to a friend who would enjoy the Nature Center. Better yet, gift a membership to family or friends.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

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- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ \$ 15 Individual | ☐ \$ 50 Sustaining |
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Checks payable to ORNC Council, Inc., 13555 Beaver Dam Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030

TRAILBLAZER

April/May/June 2014



Supporting Oregon Ridge
Nature Center for 32 years

MUSIC IN THE WOODS

May 10, 2014, 10 AM – 4 PM

Our fiddling, toe-tapping duo get top billing once again, heralding in *Music in the Woods 2014*. This lively graphic, created by illustrator Sandy Glover, has come to symbolize the rapture that is abundant at this melodious event.

Each spring, musicians of varying distinction gather in the cool meadow outside the Nature Center to entertain themselves and others with their dulcimers, mandolins, harmonicas, guitars, harps, flutes and other instruments. Some have been playing at MITW from its inception, while others may be first-timers who have just heard about this down-home event. Onlookers can just relax and listen, or if the spirit moves, join a jam session with other musicians or hop up on stage to sing, dance and play their instrument of choice.

If you have already decided that you want to perform, please call the Nature Center. The staff will assign you a place on the schedule.

This year there also will be puppet shows, a children's sing-along, face painting, crafts, colonial dancing, and some good food. Various vendors will be selling their crafts and wares.

Mark your calendars now, and when the time comes round, grab your partner and swing on over to Oregon Ridge Nature Center for a good ole time! (MJS)



Volunteers are needed to help at this event.
If interested, please email Pat Krasowski:

pkrasowski@hotmail.com

It's **FREE** and it's all about **Music** at
MUSIC IN THE WOODS!

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council, 410-887-1815; www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org; TDD/Deaf 410-887-5319

ORNC COUNCIL'S SPEAKER SERIES

THE BEAUTY AND ECOLOGY OF OUR NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

Presenter Stan Kollar
Monday, April 21, 7:30 PM

Stan Kollar will take you on a visual, floral safari through bogs, forests, dunes and rocky barrens. Let your eyes wander through images of trumpet honeysuckle, birdsfoot violet, Stoke's aster, and other beautiful and interesting wildflower species that populate Eastern North American habitats ranging from woodlands to successional fields.

When colonists first arrived in our area, these species formed vast populations across the verdant floors of our forests. Today, these displays have been mown down by unsustainable deer populations or replaced by thickets of invasives. A vital and beautiful heritage is diminished and is affecting everything from hummingbird populations to the number and diversity of insect pollinators. Perhaps there is hope for their revival.



Since 1985 Stan Kollar and his wife, Sharon, have operated Kollar Nursery, specializing in plants native to Eastern North American. Stan is a professor of Biology at Harford Community College, where he has taught classes in botany, biology and ecology since 1976. He has traveled extensively throughout every state in the union and in 12 countries in Europe and the Americas. He has worked on hundreds of projects involving landscape design, wetland restoration, water quality improvement, forest conservation, renewable energy, and the restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Chesapeake Bay. He is an accomplished photographer and photographs wildflowers wherever he goes.



PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS: Blinds, Background, Flight and Migration

Presenter Christine Shanks
Monday, May 19, 7:30 PM

Birders and binoculars go together like love and marriage and the horse and carriage in Sinatra's hit song. The camera is just as indispensable to photo buffs who love bird watching. The need to capture striking images of birds they've often waited hours to see is palpable.



to bird sanctuaries between Dauphin Island, AL, and South Padre Island on Mexico's border. She will share her expertise on

Christine Shanks is a professional photographer and avid birder. In 2013 she was granted a sabbatical as a professor at the Art Institute of Philadelphia (AIPH) to merge her two passions while observing spring migration along the Gulf Coast and the Rio Grande Valley. In her presentation, Chris will share her three-week photographic odyssey

photographing birds and answer questions about technique and equipment.

Christine Shanks is an educator, designer, and imagemaker with a BS in Visual Communications at Towson University and a MFA in fine art Photography at the University of Delaware. She teaches classes at AIPH in the Graphic Design, Web Design, and Photography departments. Chris is also a printmaker, ceramist, and painter. She is the designer/photographer for two exhibits at Oregon Ridge: *Gypsy Moth Exhibit* and *Birds in Your Backyard* book. For more information about Christine's work, please visit her Web sites listed below:

oddbirdcreative.com

christineshanks.com



MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

"Oh, we're going to talk about me, are we? Goody."

[I am Mary Jane Shanks. As editor of the *Trailblazer*, I depend heavily on input from others for each issue. An unwelcome repercussion of this year's snowbound winter was that I was unable to get some information I needed for this issue. I had to improvise. The above, rather snarky, quote by Katherine Hepburn's character in *The Philadelphia Story* aptly expresses my discomfort with the fact that portions of this issue are about me. I am not a naturalist, but I wrote one of the nature articles. I am a board member, so however awkward, this addition to the "Meet the Board" series features me, but from a slightly different perspective than usual. After reading this, you will know a bit more about me, but hopefully, a lot more about volunteering at ORNC.]

Prior to joining the Board, I was the Administrative Assistant at ORNC for 20 years. It was a pleasure and honor to work closely with the volunteer groups that continue to be the epicenter, the heart, of so many activities at the Nature Center. During most of my time working at ORNC, there were primarily three volunteer groups: Trail Guides, Ridge Runners, and the Council Board.

Trail guides are an integral part of the Nature Center's daily routine, a diverse group who has in common the love of nature, the need to be outdoors, and the willingness to share with children. They are dependable, hardy, enthusiastic folk who arrive every morning to lead groups of excited students on trail adventures to discover the wild things in the woods, meadow and streams.

The Ridge Runners are just as dependable, but being teens between 13 and 18, sometimes they are the wild things. They are fun, and profoundly curious, animal lovers who show up everyday after school and on weekends to take care of the critters and to perform other jobs around the center and at special events. Most start as middle schoolers and mature in the job over 3-4 years. Many return during college as interns, seasonal naturalists, and camp leaders. There is even one full-time naturalist now working at Marshy Point Nature Center who found his niche in life as a Ridge Runner at Oregon Ridge.

The group with which I most enjoyed working was the Council Board. I worked closely with the chairs of most of the Council committees: publicity, membership, newsletter, exhibits, volunteer, scholarship, the treasurer, and others. In

the absence of a chair, I sometimes assumed the responsibilities of a committee, primarily publicity, membership, and my favorite -- the newsletter. When I retired in 2007, I decided to take the newsletter with me and do it at home, as the official editor and a new member of the volunteer Board.

Working on the newsletter allows me to do many of the things I enjoy. I'll never be published, but I love writing. I like the creativity of layout and design, and in addition to the newsletter, have designed flyers for ORNCC speakers, a large membership/volunteer display board about the Council, and some signs of varying sizes. I do this for my church as well. Photography has become a hobby, and once in a while I use

one of my shots in the newsletter. All in all, the job of newsletter editor is fulfilling. The only things I enjoy more are my family, kayaking (especially on the Bay), birding, my daily walks with a close friend, aerobic dancing, and my hometown beach of Tybee in Savannah, Georgia.

Being a part of the Council Board is gratifying because of the other members who are even more dedicated to Oregon Ridge. These people are totally committed, which is why I enjoy featuring them in the newsletter. They always go the extra mile and are there to support one another if needed. If you have been reading past articles from the

President, you are aware of their good work and also some of the challenges they have faced over the years. The Council, which includes the Board members and YOU - our general membership, is the backbone of Oregon Ridge.

Today, there are other groups of volunteers who are also doing vital work for the Nature Center. Those who are pursuing or have completed their Master Naturalists certification have used their creativity and talents to do all sorts of innovative things for the Nature Center. They write our blog, manage our community garden, work on or chair committees on the Council Board, and research ways for ORNC to do more with Citizen Science programs such as FrogWatch and MARA. One of the Master Naturalists is heading up a new group called Trail Blazers, whose goal is to keep our trails in tiptop condition. There is also a group who monitors and cares for our Bluebird Trail and groups who care for our native plant and butterfly gardens.

Oregon Ridge is the place to go if you are looking to make a difference. The door is always open to people who want to share their talents and ideas with one of our volunteer groups, or who may have thought of a great reason for forming a new one.



(Photo by Chris Shanks)

CONTRIBUTE TO MARA: Helping Reptiles and Amphibians

By Naturalist Jessica Jeannetta

Have you recently heard a frog calling or seen a snake slithering in your backyard? This exciting find is critical information that can be included in the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas, or MARA for short. MARA is a five-year data collection effort that seeks to map the distribution of Maryland's native herp (amphibian and reptile) species. Now in its last year of data collection, the program is a collaborative effort between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Natural History Society of Maryland, and volunteers across the State.



(Photo by Sue Leslie)

Citizen scientists, like you, can help collect data — it's easy to do and helps provide important information for the MARA study. If you hear or see an amphibian or reptile in Maryland, alive or dead, take a photo if possible to help researchers verify the species. Then, visit the Natural History Society of Maryland's Web site (marylandnature.org/mara) to complete a short online form about where the sighting took place. No sighting is too common to be overlooked! The more information provided to MARA, the more reliable their study's results will be.

Maryland is home to over 90 different species of frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, snakes and lizards that are surveyed by MARA. Worldwide, many herp populations are declining as a result of pollution, habitat destruction, urbanization, invasive species and disease. Maryland's species are not exempt from these issues. In Maryland, 19 herp species are considered to be threatened, endangered, or in need of conservation by the State. For this reason alone, the data collected from this study is invaluable. The data that is collected from this five-year initiative, which started in 2010, will help scientists and researchers determine changes in historical population distribution as well as serve as a tool to create effective conservation plans for our native species.

If you are looking to get some firsthand experience in submitting MARA data or practice in identifying Maryland's herp species living at Oregon Ridge, check out the upcoming programs throughout the remainder of this year. Our spring calendar offers multiple programs focused on providing data to MARA about the reptiles and amphibians that call Oregon Ridge their home! Be sure to remember that you can help contribute to MARA anywhere you go in the State by simply taking a quick note when you encounter one of Maryland's native herp species. You'll be surprised by how little it takes and how much information your efforts will provide in helping to protect Maryland's cold-blooded friends.

NATURE QUEST! AN ADVENTURE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Nature Quest is a great opportunity to experience the outdoors and be active with friends and family while discovering some of the best parks and trails in Baltimore County. Travel the trails — some on foot and some in a canoe or kayak — to find trail markers at Oregon Ridge Park, Benjamin Banneker Park, Cromwell Valley Park, Marshy Point Park, and Robert E. Lee Park. There are special rewards for those completing five or more trails! To get started, you need a Nature Quest Passport, which can be obtained at one of the participating parks, at Wegmans, or online: www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org.



Those who complete at least five trails are eligible to attend Baltimore County's celebratory *Nature Quest FEST* at Robert E. Lee Park, date and time TBA. One must register to attend the Fest, so once you have completed five trails, call 410-887-4156 to register or do so at one of the participating parks. Hang on to your Passport! It is your ticket for free admission to the Fest.

Nature Quest ends on October 31, so get your Nature Quest Passport now to learn all about this unique outdoor adventure! (MJS)

JAM WITH ORNC'S MOUNTAIN DULCIMER GROUP

Amid the noises of chirping birds and croaking frogs at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, a different sound can be heard — the sweet refrain of the Mountain Dulcimer. A group has been gathering for five years to learn about and play this unique instrument. Anyone who has attended *Music in the Woods* has heard the Mountain Dulcimer performing old-time tunes such as *Black Mountain Rag*, *Go Tell Aunt Rody*, and *Old Joe Clark*.



This past fall, a six-week session was held on Thursday nights, where beginners and experienced players played in two groups. This spring, an introductory meeting and Jam will be held on March 22 from 9 AM to noon. Plan to attend to hear the history of this instrument and have an opportunity to play a Mountain Dulcimer. Spring evening sessions begin on Thursday, April 3, and will run for six weeks from 7 to 9 PM each evening. For more information, organizers Dave Erhardt and Griff Atkinson can be reached through the Nature Center. (WT)

PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY WEEKEND

MAY 3 and 4, 2014
IT'S FREE

This year's theme:
Rawhide, Skins, Buckskins and Sinew

Friday Night Camping is \$1/person

Saturday and Sunday
10 AM - 4 PM

Demonstrations and talks
Knappers chipping points
Hands-on activities for all ages:
Shooting bows and arrows, blowguns, tossing
atlatls and making clay coils and pinch pots

For a detailed agenda,
call 410-887-1815, or 410-887-2817,
or check our Web site:
www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org



Summer Jobs

Oregon Ridge Park
Cockeysville, MD
410-887-1818

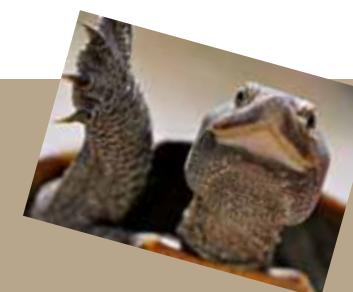
☀ Lifeguards for Quarry
*Must have current Red Cross
certifications. Great Pay!*

☀ Cashiers
*Experience helpful but
not needed.*

Both positions must have dependable
transportation and be able to work weekends.
Excellent people skills a must!



MEMBERS!
Tippy Terrapin
says,



THANK YOU VERY MUCH

To the 60 who became new members
and the 36 members who renewed at
the Pancake Breakfast!

(Please check your mailing label. If you see an
"X", this will be your **last issue** of the *Trail-
blazer*. **PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**)

PICNIC UNDER THE STARS

Friday, June 20, 6 PM
Oregon Ridge Lake

MEMBERS! We moved the annual picnic to a Friday. We hope this will enable more people to come and welcome summer under the stars at the Oregon Ridge Lake. Take an early evening swim or a woodland stroll, paddle a canoe into the twilight, stretch out on the beach, and when it is good and dark, gather round for campfire songs and roasting marshmallows over hot coals for tasty s'mores. Pack a picnic basket with hamburgers, chicken or whatever you would like to eat. The grills will be all set with hot coals. It's FREE, so bring family and friends. (MJS)



LOOKING FORWARD TO
SUMMER AND FALL!

MEMBERS! CAMP REGISTRATION BY
“LOTTERY” BEGINS APRIL 13!

To enroll into one of our popular summer camps, you must submit a registration form by 4/12, no later than 5 PM. Members get priority registration until April 25. Participants will be selected via lottery. No phone reservations will be accepted. If you need a form, please call the Nature Center or visit our Web site. Don't delay! Camps fill quickly!

TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING - September 2 to 5, from 10 AM to 1 PM. The \$20 fee is refundable after leading your first solo hike. Learn about bees and other insects, primitive technology, and more.

Honey Harvest! Mark your calendar for October 4 & 5, 11 AM to 4 PM, FREE! It's a Honey of a Festival!

MENDING WINGS FOR MONARCHS

By Mary Jane Shanks
Trailblazer Editor

The summer of 2011 was the summer of my content. I found bliss and happiness through a somewhat obsessive relationship with monarch butterflies.

The previous year, my newly planted Swamp Milkweed plants bloomed beautifully and attracted not only monarchs, but an array of other nectar gulping insects...bees, wasps, red milkweed beetles, other butterflies, and even several skulking praying mantises looking for an easy meal. Tiny monarch caterpillars soon appeared and things rapidly progressed over the next 10 to 14 days. The leaves and showy, pink flower heads quickly disappeared as the caterpillars gobbled their way to engorged size, until eventually nothing was left but bare, gnawed stalks and coatings of caterpillar frass (poo) covering the ground. One by one, the mature, satiated caterpillars crawled to the eaves of the porch roof, under the picnic table and benches, and to every other conceivable place to attach themselves by delicate silk threads and hang “J-shaped” until they magically transformed into emerald green chrysalises adorned with gold jewels. About two weeks later, most of the chrysalises turned translucent, revealing the orange and black colors of the encased monarchs. Over the ensuing hours, butterflies emerged and began pumping blood into their fragile, crinkled wings. It was a mesmerizing experience, and I vowed to catch it all on camera the following year.

When summer 2011 arrived, I had a new camera lens and gathered close-up shots of the pre-ravished virgin milkweed, of visiting monarchs, and finally the hatched caterpillars as they began an eating frenzy and grew big enough to pupate. The big moment arrived 10-14 days later, when one morning many of the green chrysalises turned to the telltale black and



orange. The next day I awoke at dawn, grabbed the camera and a cup of coffee, and settled outside in a chair placed strategically close to the chrysalis pre-selected as *the one* to photograph from the beginning to end of its emergence. The camera lens was focused just right, my finger twitching to initiate fast-action shots, when a bird's call distracted me for

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Director/Naturalist Winny Tan

Roscoe and Kristi Possidente started coming to the Nature Center several years ago with their three daughters — Maggie, Ava, and Lucia. Since they lived nearby and the girls were home-schooled, they began by signing the girls up for our Woolly Bear and Nature Home School programs. One day, Kristi asked if there were any other volunteer opportunities at the Nature Center in which the whole family could participate together. They were looking for something fun and meaningful that even their youngest, Lucia, could enjoy. Thus began their weekly family adventures, which have mostly taken place on Wednesdays. Today, of course, the girls are three years older and a lot taller. Maggie is now 11, Ava 9 and Lucia 6. Their Wednesday excursions continue, with Roscoe joining them as often as possible.



The family started off adopting a trail, making sure it was clear of debris and cutting away vines that encroached. They painted picnic tables, weeded gardens, and folded paper. The girls were always willing to try new things and animals were definitely a favorite activity. They fill our birdfeeders and they help feed our chickens. When our hen population was down, they incubated and raised three baby chickens for the Nature Center. This was one of Ava's favorite jobs so far. Lucia just loved chasing the chickens, and thought it was funny when the turkey called out “boggle boggle” at them.

Maggie loves helping out at our special events, such as dressing up as a zombie at the *Ghosts of the Miner's Past* and helping with the *Honey Harvest Festival*. The most recent events the family helped with were *Maple Sugar Weekends* and the *Pancake Breakfast*. They came to training and taught families about the history of sugar making as well as making sumac spiles. They sold raffle tickets for the quarter auction at the breakfast.

The Possidentes applied for a grant and are now helping to create a butterfly host garden to be planted this spring. The many different ways this one family has helped us in just a few short years is amazing, and we hope they will be around for many more years to come.

When asked *why would you encourage others to become an ORNC volunteer?* Ava answered: “Because it's fun and stuff.” Lucia agreed with “Because it's fun! (and the hot chocolate).” They love the hot chocolate here, and we love the Possidente family for helping out and becoming part of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center family.



ZERODRAFT HELPS
ORNCC MEMBERS INCREASE
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In the last newsletter, you read about ORNCC entering into a loose partnership with ZeroDraft, whereby the Nature Center would receive half of the \$100 fee associated with an energy audit performed by ZeroDraft for our members. The other half of the fee would be returned to participating members in the form of a gift card. If you missed the article, please look for the Jan-March 2014 issue of the *Trailblazer* on our Web site: www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org.

Since that time, several members have contacted ZeroDraft for information and some have gone forward with the audits. During the Pancake Breakfast, 8 or 9 people signed up for audits at ZeroDraft's table. If you have been considering ways to decrease the cost of energy in your home, please contact Kurt Pfund at Zerodraft Maryland, (410) 321-5936 or visit: <http://zerodraftmd.com/>. Remember to mention that you are a member of the ORNC Council. (MJS)



SETH DAWSON:
A Cool Ridge Runner

Seth Dawson is a senior at Towson High and this will be his last year on the Ridge Runner team. He began volunteering in 2011, so he is a veteran Ridge Runner, well-liked for his humor and his “cool” quality by the younger Ridgies. Seth says, “I have known about this place all my life, and it’s great to know that I can help them get along.”

Seth became a Ridge Runner because he has always been interested in animals. Jasmine the Opossum is his favorite because, “...she is the only opossum I have ever known that doesn’t bite you when you hand-feed her.” Seth should know. In the last 4 years, he has handled several of Jasmine’s predecessors. His favorite Ridge Runner *job* is helping out at special events. We can always count on Seth’s ghostly appearance at Ghosts of Miner’s Past, his sturdy arm pressing cider at the Honey Harvest, his diligence tending the campfires during Maple Sugar Weekends, and his persuasive powers selling raffle tickets at the Pancake Breakfasts. Seth has also helped during Summer Camps and last year he assisted camps at Camp Puhtok.



Seth has been here long enough to witness some weird and crazy situations. One of his favorite funny stories involves fellow Ridge Runner, Joey Devine. Seth tells it this way: “At the Primitive Technology Weekend over a year ago, my friend Joey and I mixed clay face paint that stained our faces for the whole day. Later on that day, my sister had her birthday dinner at a fancy restaurant and I showed up looking like a Willy Wonka character!”

Seth loves drawing, martial arts, going to the gym, and listening to music. The staff says he is a really good artist, but they are sometimes displeased to find his drawings all over the animal log book. His favorite thing to do in the whole world is go for long hikes in the woods, especially between spring and summer. In his quiet times, he reads action/adventure books.

After graduating from high school with what looks to be a 3.0 GPA, Seth plans on attending college. Even though his favorite subject is currently psychology, Seth would like to eventually land a job within the field of ecology.

When asked what is his favorite thing about being a Ridge Runner,

Seth says, “making new friends.” Seth has accumulated lots of friends at Oregon Ridge, including the members of the staff. We wish you *Good Luck*, Seth, on reaching your goals. (MJS)

only a few seconds. When I turned back, the monarch was out. I realized then that this would take grit and diligence.

I quickly focused on another chrysalis, and while waiting, other monarchs began emerging, gripping tenuously onto the remnants of their now empty, paper-thin chrysalises until their wings engorged to flying size. However, one monarch lost its grip and fell unnoticed to the ground. When I finally spotted it, the damage was done. Having lost those fleeting, blood rushing minutes so crucial to wing development and a monarch’s survival, one wing was only partially inflated and the other was torn and creased from hitting something sharp in the fall. It was sad, and I felt an unexpected flush of guilt.

After successfully photographing the entire emergence sequence, I noticed the injured monarch crawling up a flowering bush, determined to begin feeding. Watching its valiant effort, I wondered if wings could be fixed. I grabbed my trusty iPad, quickly googled *fixing monarch wings* and VOILA! In a nanosecond, dozens of web links popped up, the first being: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah0SBALlc0o. The video showed the step-by-step process of repairing damaged wings, from splinting a bent or broken one to wing replacement using the salvaged wing of a deceased monarch. It was too late for the intrepid injured monarch, but from that moment on, photographing monarchs became secondary to making sure as many as possible emerged safely. Obstacles beneath each chrysalis were removed and the next few days were spent aiding fallen monarchs by carefully placing them on sturdy plant stems so the wings could properly inflate.

When one did manage to tear the tip of a wing, I knew just what to do. To fly properly, a butterfly’s wings must be symmetrical. For slightly damaged wings, where less than 40% is affected, an easy fix is to carefully hold the two wings together, and using a pair of sharp scissors, cut the wings to match, following the natural shape as closely as possible. I performed this procedure, and the butterfly flitted away.

Luckily, I never had to splint a broken wing or replace one. It still amazes me that it can be done. To fix a broken wing, a small piece of double-sided card stock, cut thin to match the width of the broken edge, can be glued to the break using contact cement. If more than 40% of a wing is damaged, it



can be replaced with a similar-sized wing of a dead monarch, matching the veins and gluing the new wing onto what is left of the original. The video shows how to perform both procedures. The materials needed include a towel, bent wire hanger (to hold the butterfly in place), tooth pick (to apply the glue), cotton swabs, tweezers, scissors, contact cement, double-sided cardboard, baby powder (sprinkled on to keep any excess glue from sticking to something undesirable), and of course, a collection of wings if major surgery is involved.

Unfortunately, for the past two summers, very few monarchs have visited my milkweed. Research revealed that the monarch population is in trouble due to deforestation, severe bouts of weather, and the expanded use of herbicide-based agriculture. In a *Washington Post* 2013 article titled “Monarch Butterflies Keep Disappearing: Here’s Why,” author Brad Plumer states, “The number of butterflies migrating to Mexico has been dropping sharply. In 2012, just 60 million monarchs arrived at their overwintering habitats, a record low. And fresh data from WWF Mexico suggests that the current winter’s numbers are even lower, down to 33 million in Mexico across just 1.65 acres. That’s the lowest area on record.” The article goes on to explain that the butterfly population is relative to the number of acres inhabited during seasonal hibernation. In 2003, 27.48 acres existed in Mexico.

Monarch Watch, an organization dedicated to education, conservation and research of the monarch, lists ways you can help. Create monarch habitats, known as monarch waystations, by planting milkweed and nectar plants in home gardens, at schools, businesses, parks, zoos, nature centers, along roadsides and other unused plots of land. Also, use herbicides and insecticides less and spray at a safe distance (100 feet) from native habitats for monarchs. You can learn more about monarchs by visiting www.monarchwatch.org/. In the meantime, witness for yourself a monarch emerging from its chrysalis. Check out the link below.



(Photos by Mary Jane Shanks)

It’s Amazing!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5QH3bGF4uU>

TRAILBLAZER STAFF

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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Stan Kollar, Sue Leslie, Christine Shanks,
Mary Jane Shanks, Staff

Steve McDaniel took all the photos for the Pancake Breakfast article. You can see more of his photos on <http://www.mcdanielphotography.com/eventspace.html>

OREGON RIDGE NATURE CENTER, INC.

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Seasonal Attendant	Sara Barnett

Building Attendants	Noot Canoles
	Jay Szyborski

1280 SUPPORTERS HELP CELEBRATE ORNCC'S
28TH PANCAKE BREAKFAST ANNIVERSARY

The frigid winter of 2014, with its endless, messy snowfalls, could not stop hundreds of people from flocking to Oregon Ridge to tap maple trees and eat pancakes during Maple Sugar Season. Snow and its nasty cousin ice cancelled the first weekend of Maple Sugaring, so twice as many people showed up on the balmy second weekend, matching last year's total attendance of 2000. Tapping conditions were so perfect — freezing nights and warm days — that as soon as the drill penetrated the bark, sap streamed from the trees for onlookers to taste. The steamy evaporator was in high gear boiling sap into syrup, and since we had leftover syrup made last year from Black Walnut trees, visitors were able to compare its taste to that of the sugar maple. The snow on the ground enabled us to make taffy or “snow sugar,” another special treat for the large crowd.

We celebrated our 28th Pancake Breakfast Anniversary with nearly 1300 diners who came to feast on hotcakes and grilled sausage. Some attended both days. Some brought friends and family to celebrate a birthday over breakfast. So many hungry guests came back for seconds that we almost ran out of pancake batter. County Executive Kevin Kamenetz arrived to show his support on Saturday by addressing the crowd and even serving some people their breakfasts. Other County officials also showed up to lend their support: Barry Williams, Baltimore County Director of Recreation and Parks, and Beahta Davis, Chief of Recreation Services.

There was the traditional music by the Oregon Ridge Dulcimer Band and the Nature Center Band, Host Walter Massey's \$.25 raffles, flower and syrup sales, face painting by artists Grace Meredith, Xanthia Strohl, and Melissa Tillery, and the gift shop. Nearly 96 people took home a free bottle of syrup by becoming a new Council member or renewing their membership. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists manned stations to provide information, and for the first time,

Zerodraft manned a table where representatives spoke to people about energy audits and simple changes to make at home to increase energy efficiency and save money.

As always, John Canoles's box raffles were a huge success, thanks to donations from these generous benefactors: Aqua Ventures, Auto Spa Hand Wash, Birds and Beyond, Boordy Vineyards, Brick Bodies, Brooks Huff Tire and Auto Center, Donna's Hallmark, Earth Treks Climbing Center, Greetings and Readings, Ladew Topiary Gardens, Mt. Washington Tavern, Oregon Ridge Gift Shop, Oregon Ridge Park Beach, Turf Valley Golf and Resort, Zerodraft Maryland, and individuals Ann and Noot Canoles, Pam Jarrell, Sue Leslie, Ginna Naylor, and Winny Tan.

The success of our Maple Sugar Season can be attributed to all who came to breakfast, and to our wonderful volunteers who worked alongside Winny Tan's Nature Center staff and Pam Jarrell's Lodge staff. The Pancake Breakfast Committee consists of Chairman Bill LaBarre, Treasurer Anne Canoles, Kitchen Coordinator Ginna Naylor, Special Events Chair Georgette Frederick, Publicity Chair Mike Burns, Gift Shop Coordinator Noot Canoles, Flower Coordinator Polly Roberts, Membership Chair Marcia Dysart, and Volunteer Chair Pat Krasowski, who begins months in advance lining up the over 130 workers who prep, cook, clean, wash, mix, flip, sell and serve. We want to give special thanks to our sausage cooks, who must stand outside over hot, steaming grills in all kinds of weather: Bill Diegel, Jack Kerns, Bob Meier, Kevin O'Neill, John Rigley, Lou Witt, and Joe Warfield. Everyone worked as a team to give our visitors an experience to remember until this time next year. **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.**

All photos by photographer Steve McDaniel. To view (or purchase) more photos from this event, visit his gallery: www.mcdanielphotography.com/galleries/orncbreakfast2014/index.html



Jillian Lander mixes the batter



Sue Leslie pours batter



Lynn Faulkner flips pancakes



OUR VOLUNTEERS AND
STAFF ARE GRADE A!

Lena Appleby
James Appleby
Carole Armor
Gary Anderson
Jesse Anderson
Cindy Atkinson
Griff Atkinson
Dominique Bain
Marlin Ballard
Ellice Brahm
Ed Bull
Carolyn Buonsignore
Mike Burns
Casey Burtnick
Ann Canoles
John Canoles
Noot Canoles
Chris Carpenter
Leigh Cochrane
Norm Cohen
Jeanne Cole
Katie Coolahan
Jim Curtis
Seth Dawson
Joey Devine
Liam Devine
Frank Dickison
Bill Diegel
Kirk Dreier
Winnie Dreier
Marcia Dysart
Dave Erhardt
Lynn Faulkner
Georgette Frederick

Wendy Friedlander
Judy Fulton
Katya Gavin
Susan Genovese
Jay Ghingher
Pat Ghingher
Mark Gingerich
Sybil Hebb
Joan Hoblitzell
Lisa Hopkins
Christopher James
Joy James
Brent Jeannetta
Ann Kerns
Jack Kerns
Jerry Kirkwood
Pat Krasowski
Brian Krista
Bill LaBarre
Bill LaBarre, Jr.
Holly LaBarre
Jillian Lander
Amy Lang
Sue Leslie
Faye Lukas
Sammie Mang
Walter Massey
Nancy Mattingly
Bob Meier
Gayle Meier
Grace Meredith
Ellen Mering
Sandy McCann
Erin McCleary

Angie McDaniel
Steve McDaniel
April Melato
Dan Melato
Dean Merritt
Bradley Moore
Ruth Moore
Ed Morse
Ginna Naylor
Colleen Neeley
Nan Neely
Kathy Obbagy
Kevin O'Neill
Morrison Pan
Christina Panousos
Phon Pathoumphonong
Katharine Patterson
Beth Petterson
Kristi Possidente
Roscoe Possidente
Maggie Possidente
Ava Possidente
Lucia Possidente
Jim Potter
David Power
Sue Reif
John Ridgley
Polly Roberts
Scott Roberts
Maddie Rozics
Sylvia Sackleh
Joe Salvaggio
Marty Schugam
Paula Schugam



Mary Scott
Ashby Shanks
Mary Jane Shanks
Zi Smith
Michele Steinitz
Xanthia Strohl
Lila Straight
Levy Straight
Becky Stein
Scout Stein
Ray Terrill
Linda Tice
Melissa Tillery
Donna Tracy
Anita Tyler
Paul Waldman
Mike Waltz

Bella Wanis
Chris Wanis
Josh Ward
Katie Ward
Meghan Ward
Pam Ward
Cas Warfield
Joe Warfield
Alex Waugh
Ben Wetzel
Bob Willasch
Lou Witt
Ilona Wittenberg
Willy Wong
Nora Zietz
ORNCC Staff
OR Lodge Staff

Joy James plays the mandolin
Walter Massey with Ridgies: Grace Meredith, Seth Dawson, Ray Terrill
John Canoles, the Box Raffle Man
Three Amigos cook sausage: Jack Kerns, Kevin O'Neill, Joe Warfield
Xanthia Strohl paints a pretty face

THEY MAKE A GREAT TEAM!