

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



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Is Your Membership
Current?



Honey Harvest Festival 2013



Bob Meier Cooks a Good Hotdog

BD

Pat Krasowski and Carol Armor sold the winning raffle ticket



JC



JC



BD

Liam Devine finds out that
apple pressing is hard work

Hive Demo by Honey Princess, Emily Campbell

Snapshots

By Jim Curtis and
Bill Diegel

TRAILBLAZER

Jan - March 2014



Supporting Oregon Ridge Park
and Nature Center for 31 years

NEW ZEALAND IN TWO WEEKS

Presenter Sue Leslie
Monday, January 20, 7:30 PM

Sue Leslie's trip to New Zealand with her nephew Ed began with the yen to travel, a travel agent, and a bubble of anticipation that bounced to one friend and another who shared in their excitement. All that ended when the bubble hit a pinprick and went **POP**, like the weasel in the nursery rhyme, who in this case was the travel agent who bailed at the last minute. Thus began Sue and Ed's New Zealand adventure as they scurried to plan an amazing trip in just two short weeks.

Last February, Sue and Ed savored the true flavors of New Zealand with the help of a past student who lives on the North Island and her neighbor's family who live on the South Island. Through the magic of power point, Sue will take you along on a photographic journey from the North to the South Islands, and give you some insight into planning your own trip along the way. Ride a train along the coast, cross a glacier, soak in a thermal pool, walk the best day hike in the world, and sail a fjord.

Now retired, Sue began her career as a physical education teacher and coach for Baltimore County Schools. Her Outdoor Education Elective was written up in Maryland's Special Programs. Students were able to cross-country ski, canoe, bike, backpack, learn orienteering, obtain Boating Safety Certification, and more. Later in her career, she developed and led Baltimore County students on a variety of outdoor and environmental programs. Sue presently volunteers for Anita C. Leight's box turtle telemetry program and serves on the ORNC Council Board as Speaker Series Chair.

MJS



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Maple Sugar Weekends - Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23

Annual Pancake Breakfast - March 1 & 2

Speaker Stephen McDaniel

Save the Bees

March 17, 7:30 PM, Free

Meet Pat Ghinger, new ORNCC President

Save Energy and Help ORNC

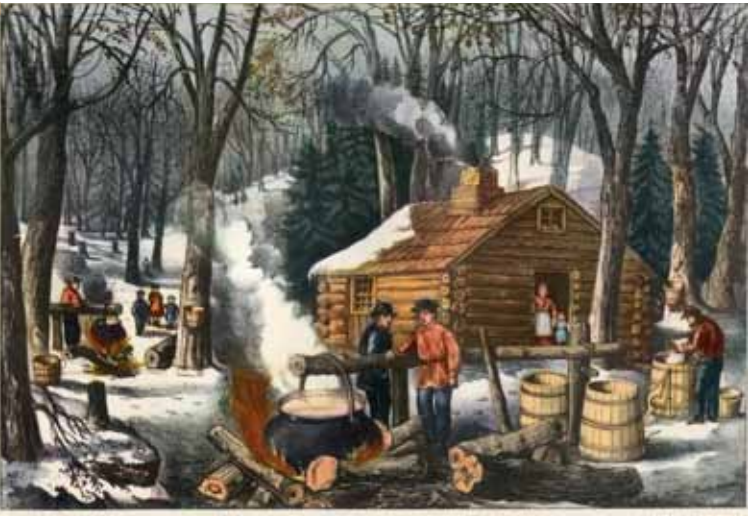
Bird Food for Thought and Much More!



HOW SWEET IT IS!

MAPLE SUGARING AS
IN DAYS OF OLE . . .

THEN, OUR ANNUAL
PANCAKE BREAKFAST



MAPLE SUGARING.
EARLY SPRING IN THE NORTHERN WOODS

MAPLE SUGAR DAYS
February 15 and 16, 22 and 23
10 AM to 4 PM

Tapping Begins at Oregon Ridge. . .

The trees are busy storing up energy and harnessing sap. If the nights remain cold and the lengthening days warm above freezing, all that energy and sap will be released in abundance come tapping time in February, ready for tasting. Down at the Sugar Shack, the evaporator will be steaming, boiling sap into syrup. You don't want to miss it! Gather up the kids, some friends, and come and get it!

Sweet Maple Syrup for the Tastin'
IT'S FREE and FUN!

**GET YOUR STACK OF PANCAKES
WITH REAL MAPLE SYRUP
AT THE ANNUAL
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Oregon Ridge Lodge
March 1 and 2 8 AM to Noon

Tickets at Door: Adults - \$7; Kids 2 to 8 - \$3

Gobble up some grilled sausage, too. Buy tickets to win a box raffle, take home some syrup and spring flowers, visit our gift shop, renew your Council membership, or....

**Support Us by
Joining the ORNC Council !**

TRAIL GUIDES CREATE MEMORIES
Training Begins February 4

A small bunch of excited children closely trail a man clad in worn jeans and an old jacket with its pockets full of small, earthly treasures...a tiny garnet, a feather, a shed cicada skin, and a small arrowhead. The man has only one goal in mind — to give these youngsters a nature adventure they will talk about for days. If you enjoy nature, working with children and hiking, you too can give a child an up-close, hands-on nature experience that may be remembered even into adulthood.

This winter's topics include: Maple Sugaring, Habitats, Reptiles and Amphibians, and Arthropods. The \$20 training fee will be refunded after you lead your first hike. Training lasts 4 consecutive days, February 4 to 7, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Reservations are appreciated; payment is due upon arrival. Come early for some light refreshments. If you cannot attend training, but are interested in becoming a Trail Guide, please call the Center for more information about alternative training methods. **MJS**



BIRD FOOD FOR THOUGHT
by Winny Tan

As the sun rises or sets, my backyard feeder is full of visitors — guests of the feather. I put out only black-oil sunflower seeds and see cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, and titmice year-round. My winter regulars, the northern juncos, join them each year. Occasionally, a bluebird will sit on the shepherd's hook that holds the feeder, a great lookout point for juicy bugs in the grass. Woodpeckers, like the Red-bellied and Hairy, often drop in from the Woodlands. One fall the birdfeeder enticed migrating rose-breasted grosbeaks, and Mom and I watched them until they moved on a few days later. Things can get exciting at times. One morning a Cooper's hawk, going for a titmouse dining at the feeder, crashed landed into our deck. Unfortunately, instead of feasting, the titmouse was feasted upon by this avivorous (bird-eating) hawk.

Once you put out a feeder, it doesn't take long for the birds to zoom in. Feeding birds is not a recent phenomenon; it's been an American tradition since the times of Emily Dickinson and Henry Thoreau. People do it mostly for the enjoyment of observing different birds and their behaviors, without going too far outside their homes.

Birds, too, benefit from this arrangement. There are many granivorous birds that eat seeds and grains year-round; then there are omnivorous birds that switch over from insects to seeds in the winter. A birdfeeder filled in the midst of spring and fall migration, and during harsh winters, will help these avian critters through tough times.

There are some key tasks to undertake when feeding birds to ensure their health and safety. First, feeding stations should be maintained properly to prevent disease organisms from taking hold. Wet and moldy seeds should be discarded immediately. Feeders should be washed thoroughly with warm, soapy water every two weeks and occasionally disinfected with a light bleach solution. The ground should be cleaned of hull build-up and uneaten seeds that can get spoiled and moldy. Feeders should be repaired or discarded if sharp edges occur to prevent injuries. Placement of a feeder is ideally near bushes and trees to allow for easy resting spots between feeds and an easy refuge to escape a predator, like the hawk. While we like to view birds up close and sometimes from the comforts of

home, millions of birds are killed by window collisions. Place your feeders somewhere in the yard away from glass, or less than 3 feet away. When placed 6 feet or more from a window, the bird can take off and fly at optimum speed, which can cause more injuries or death if it hits the window.

Picking the type of birdfeeder and the food is a simpler task, and there are Web sites and stores that can advise a beginner. Pick the right food, since inappropriate food can be unhealthy and possibly lethal to wild birds. One caution — your birdfeeder is subsidizing food to exotic, invasive birds such as the English Sparrows and European Starlings that can wreak havoc on native bird population. If you see more of these exotic or opportunistic birds, take down your feeder

for a short period and then put it up again, hopefully discouraging these visitors from staying.

I've given up on preventing the squirrels from eating my seeds and ruining my birdfeeders. Now I share a little bit of the sunflower seeds with them on the ground and a platform feeder. This also helps out the ground feeding birds like the juncos and the mourning doves. Other mammals get in on the free



Photo by Christine J. Shanks

buffet as well. This past fall, an unusual sight at one of the hanging birdfeeders at Oregon Ridge made me do a double take. A little chipmunk somehow climbed up the pole and shimmied into the wired frame that keeps out bigger animals, like squirrels. It was stuffing its mouth with a cache of seeds. It came back again and again and probably has a nice storage in its den for the winter. Deer have also figured out a way to get some of the seeds. The ones at my house knock the hanging feeder with their heads and then munch on the seeds that fall out.

Birdfeeders not only bring enjoyment, but also help science. *Project FeederWatch*, set up by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, collects data across the United States with the help of kids, families, nature centers, and schools, who record the birds visiting their feeders from November to early April. Scientists can then track broad-scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. For more information, check out www.feederwatch.org. or start helping by signing up for one of Oregon Ridge's FeederWatch programs.

HONEY HARVEST 2013 NEARS PERFECTION

Perfection can be boring, so we won't make that claim for Honey Harvest 2013. There was nothing boring about this year's festival. Summer temperatures prevailed. Blue, sunny skies haloed each day. Record crowds boosted spirits, leaving us with no leftovers and record sales for the beekeepers and other vendors. Perfection? Maybe.

BANDS, CRAFTS PEOPLE, DEMONSTRATORS AND VENDORS

Richard Anderson and the 87th PA Corps.
Brian Brauer and the 4th N.C. Co.
Emily Campbell, Honey Princess 2013
Jerry Feldman (Star Gazing)
Nancy Greene (Free Range Lamb Products)
Joan Gilmore (Wood Sculptures)
Chuck Huselton (Hive Equip. Display/Extractor)
Master Gardeners – Leigh Cochrane, Norm Cohen,
Nancy Jones, Pam Moss
Ted McNett (Blacksmith)
McDaniel Apiaries
Klaus Myer (Wood Carvings)
Snyders Apiaries
Bees by the Bay
Joseph "Reb" Staub (Blacksmith) - See Photo
Lisa Westra (Spinning and Wool) - See Photo
Roger Williams, Debora Lowthwait, Mary Gampa,
Stephanie Gold, Ruth Zajicek,
Kathy Woods, Walter Massey, and Debbie Trout
(Phoenix Wildlife Ctr.)
Music By: Will Play for Fish,
New Southern Cow Tippers,
and Jan Seiden, Native American Flute



JC

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Gene and Linda Williamson for hosting and offering transportation to the visiting Honey Princess, Emily Campbell.

One thing is for sure, the planning team — Erin McCleary, Pat Krasowski, Georgette Frederick — the ORNC staff, and the following dedicated volunteers deserve a PERFECT. . .

THANK YOU!



BD

FRIENDS OF ORNC

Gary Anderson	Sue Leslie
Jesse Anderson	Helen Marr
Lena Appleby	Carol Mantegna
Carole Armor	Ted Martello
Ed Bull	Erin McCleary
Mike Burns	Bob Meier
Seth Dawson	Gayle Meier
Joey & Liam Devine	Ellen Mering
Bill Diegel	Joe Mowery
Marcia Dysart	Kevin O'Neill
Tami Elizabeth	Christina Panousos
Lynn Faulkner	Cheryl Parrish
Georgette Frederick	Ava Possidente
Mary Genovese	Kristi Possidente
Susan Genovese	Lucia Possidente
Jay Ghingher	Maggie Possidente
Pat Ghingher	Dave Powers
Andrew Gingerich	Alison Ramirez
Mark Gingerich	Summer Riddle
Carole Goorevitz	Joe Salvaggio
Sybil Hebb	Xanthia Stohl
Joan Hoblitzell	Rashid Taleb
Maria Hult	Derrick Tan
Jim Kelley	Melissa Tillery
Ann Kerns	Paul Waldman
Pat Krasowski	Alex Waugh
Bill LaBarre	Ilona Wittenberg

Our parking attendants, MEMBERS OF DULANEY HIGH KEY CLUB

Ally Albers	Joe Ji
Sai Alur	Zainab Khan
Tyler Bergeron	Noelle Li
Alise Collins	Fatima Muzzafar
Christine Condon	Alia Olmedo
Chetali Despande	SooHo Park
Arshad Fakhar	Mihir Sadugar
Yasmeena Fakhouri	Amanda Song
Anna Feerick	Alex Stocksedale
Justin Fitzgerald	Esha Vangara
Sarah Foltz	Joodh Waleedh
Anushka Gerald	Ari Wu
Rachel Hall	J. Yablonovskaya
Helena Hahn	Iris Zou



BD



BD

SAVE THE BEES

Presenter Stephen McDaniel
Monday, March 17, 7:30 PM

Master Beekeeper Steve McDaniel lost two-thirds of his bee colonies in the fall of 2012. He lost more bees in 2013, and so did a lot of other beekeepers. Steve is fighting hard to keep the rest of his bees alive this season. "I can't afford to write off half my bees again this year," he says, "No one can."

Honeybees, so vital to the pollination of our crops and the health of a myriad of plants, are in trouble with more dying off each year. Scientists speculate over the causes — viral diseases, fungicides, pesticides, mites, deadly parasites. During his presentation in March at ORNC, Steve will discuss the history of bees, especially the honeybee and Colony Collapse Disorder. He will explain the strides scientists are making to save these valuable insects and the challenges they face in identifying the causes for the devastation. Steve has his own ideas to share about what is killing the bees, saying with a slight bit of sarcasm, "It isn't cell phones."

Steve McDaniel is a freelance photographer, so there will be plenty of beautiful and perhaps disturbing photos to illustrate his talk. Steve treasures nature and his photographs reflect that emotion. Thousands of Steve's photos have been published in calendars, magazines, and books, including

American Bee Journal and other bee publications, *Newsweek*, *Outdoor America*, *BBC Wildlife*, and more. His photographs have won awards in major competitions such as *Nature's Best* and *Wildlife Photographer of the Year*.

Steve is a prolific beekeeper with twenty colonies that produce more honey than he can use, so he sells some of it. His honey and beeswax have also won awards at fairs and shows. He is a Past President of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association. To find out more about his bees and honey, visit: www.McDanielHoneyFarm.com. His photography can be viewed on www.McDanielPhotography.com. **MJS**



Photo by Stephen McDaniel

OREGON RIDGE NATURE CENTER COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

College bound high school seniors from Baltimore County and City, who are committed to the health of the environment and plan to earn degrees in environmental science and nature education, can start on the path to success with a scholarship awarded by the ORNC Council.



This year we will support at least two scholarships up to \$3000 each.

YOU can help by giving generously to the 2014 Scholarship Fund.

Your tax-deductible donations should be made payable to the **ORNC Council** (specify *Scholarship Fund* on the note line) and sent to:

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

Donor's names will be published. If you would like to make a gift in another's name, please specify the name as it should appear on the list.

If you know a high school senior who may be eligible for a scholarship, information and application forms are available on our new Web site: www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org. Applications should be postmarked no later than Friday, March 28, 2014.

Thank You for Helping Us Put
Our Future Environmental Leaders
on the Path to Success.

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Pat Ghinger, ORNCC President

Nobody made a greater mistake than he (she) who did nothing because they could only do a little.

This Edmund Burke quote will set the standard for the Council under the leadership of our new President, Pat Ghinger. Pat displayed this quote in each of her classrooms throughout her teaching career. Recently retired, Pat was the Senior Teacher Naturalist and Team Leader of the Outdoor Science Education program for Baltimore County Public Schools. If your children have visited Oregon Ridge on a school trip, they have benefited from the expertise, planning and coordination of Pat and her team of seven Outdoor Science teachers and Para Educators. As Council President, she hopes to carry Burke’s message to the people who visit, volunteer, and work at Oregon Ridge. Pat believes that by serving on the board, “I can help ORNC continue to provide wonderful opportunities for the public to get up close with nature and gain an even deeper understanding of the part they play in preserving our natural world.”

After earning a B.A. at Hood College in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and Education, Pat spent the next 42 years as an educator. Her background includes writing grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Environmental Protection Agency, promoting and developing the Maryland Green School Award program for Baltimore County, and curricula



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facilitator for Project Wet, Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree. She created and implemented a number of ambitious initiatives for BCPS: A monthly, after-school Nature for Teachers program, the BCPS Forest Restoration Project that resulted in students planting over 5000 trees, and the AP and the GT 8 Environmental Stream Studies and Curricula.

Throughout her career, Pat has formed partnerships with Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Irvine Natural Science Center, the DNR Forestry Service, DNR Parks Services, and Baltimore County Recreation and Parks. She has served on several boards, including the Baltimore County Soil Conservation Board and the Board of Trustees for the Maryland Association for Outdoor and Environmental Educators, and continues to serve on the Baltimore County Forestry Board.

Now Pat is enjoying the benefits of retirement and says, “I have a list a mile long of things I want to do and learn.” A longtime member of the Hardy Garden Club, she looks forward to working more in her garden. She also loves hiking, biking, playing lots of tennis, golfing, kayaking and enjoying all forms of nature. Accompanied by her husband and her dog Sadie, Pat has started hiking portions of the Appalachian Trail in hopes of completing the whole thing in her golden years. Mostly Pat wants to enjoy her family, which is growing. She recently became a brand new grandmother. **MJS**

MARK YOUR 2014 CALENDARS FOR THESE FREE SPRING EVENTS

PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY WEEKEND

May 3 and 4
10 AM to 4 PM

MUSIC IN THE WOODS

May 10
10 AM to 4 PM

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

April 21, 2014
Native Plants
Stan Kollar
Professor Biology and Earth Science
Harford Community College

May 19, 2014
Photographing Birds: Blinds, Backgrounds, Flight & Migration
Christine Shanks
Photographer
Asst. Professor Graphic Arts
Art Institute of Philadelphia

Both are FREE and begin at 7:30 PM at ORNC

THIS RIDGIE IS DEVINE, AS IN JOSEPH DEVINE

Oregon Ridge Nature Center has been blessed by the Devine — the Devine Family, that is. First there was Jackie Devine, the oldest in the family and the first to be a Ridge Runner at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Jackie now works part-time at Oregon Ridge during college breaks. Joseph has taken the reins now, and hopefully his younger brother Liam will follow when he turns thirteen. In this issue, we spotlight Joseph, most often called Joey.

Joey became a Ridge Runner because he loves working with animals and he likes working outdoors. His favorite job is tending the fires during the Maple Sugar Weekends. He enjoys teaching visitors how people used to make maple syrup in the old days and how it is made today. Overall, Joey most enjoys working at the Pancake Breakfast. “It is so much fun! Music, friends, pancakes. What else do you need?” That says it all about our annual fundraiser.

Joey’s favorite animal died this year, Jack the Starling. Regardless, Jack remains Joey’s favorite, “...because he was super smart and could actually mimic words!” He has



several pets at home to care for, his dog Rex and three cats named Shade, Amber and AJ.

Joey loves to have fun and isn’t shy about poking fun at himself. He describes himself as “the second laziest person I know,” leaving us to wonder who is the first in his opinion. He and his three closest friends, Mike, Monell, and Justin, had fun at

Music in the Woods this year by “covering our faces in paint and freaking people out.” Joey has lots of fun being a Ridge Runner and would encourage others his age to join him because, “You meet some crazy and some really cool people!”

Besides being a Ridgie, Joey likes snowboarding, surfing, and he has just started to play the guitar. He enjoys reading Sci-fi, horror and historical fiction.

Joey, a junior at Dulaney High School, is proud to follow in the footsteps of his sister Jackie. On his Ridge Runner application form, Joey wrote in big letters: “I have an older sister who has been working at ORNC for 7 years!!! This place is a big part of my childhood!!!” We love his exclamation points, and we love having Joey as a part of the Ridge Runner team.

If you enjoy caring for animals and are interested in being a Ridge Runner, please call Jessie Jeannetta at the Nature Center (410) 887-1815 for an interview. **MJS**

MEMBERS!
THANK YOU FOR OUR NEW EXHIBIT
REMEMBER TO RENEW IN TIME FOR
SUMMER CAMPS

Members, thanks to your support we continue to create new exhibits in the Nature Center. Come in and check out our newest: *Birding in the Backyard* exhibition book. This sturdy book, designed by photographer, graphic designer, and birder Christine J. Shanks, contains photographs and basic information about habitat and feeding that will enrich your bird watching experience at the Nature Center and Park, and help you identify birds in your own backyard.

The **SUMMER CAMP** schedule will be in the April/ May/June issue of the *Trailblazer*. Remember to check the label on your newsletter and renew if your membership will expire by then.



There will be a new Camp registration process this year, which will eliminate the need to call and spend time waiting on the phone. This year, current members will fill out a form provided in the spring newsletter and return it by the designated date. Campers will be chosen by lottery. We hope this will be an easier and more equitable way for members to register their children for camp. **MJS**

JESSICA JEANNETTA JOINS ORNC

After a year of vacancies in key positions at the Nature Center, we are at last fully staffed. The newest member to ORNC's family is Community Supervisor Jessica Jeannetta. Jessie loves to explore and expand her understanding of the environment, so she is amazed that she now has a career that requires her to spend time outside and to play!

Jessie is well seasoned and ready to handle the fun and sometimes crazy adventures that take place at Oregon Ridge. When asked what the craziest or most extraordinary thing she has encountered while working in this field, she replied, "Lots of things! When dealing with the environment and people, I feel like I always have to expect the unexpected...very little ends up being ordinary..." For instance:

- An intern who fainted in the middle of an animal outreach program attended by the entire school.
- An earthquake and hurricane that occurred the same week as an overnight camp that she was overseeing.
- Rescuing a family from their boat after it caught fire off shore.
- Evading outbreaks of lice and the highly contagious Norovirus at a residential camp.
- Being chased by an enormous rat living in a sleeping bag used for campouts.

Jessie Jeannetta is a graduate from Frostburg State University where she earned a degree in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science and a minor in Geography. Following college, she worked in various capacities at the Irvine Nature Center and North Bay Environmental Learning Center, where she discovered her passion for teaching environmental education. Jessie recently completed a Masters in Recreation

and Park Management through online classes in Frostburg's graduate program.

Working in the field of environmental education is a preeminent opportunity to give back to the environment and the community by teaching the importance and appreciation



of the natural world to a variety of audiences. Inspired by those who taught her along the way, Jessie now loves mentoring those who are at the beginning of their journey. She hopes to bring together her ideas, work experience, and educational background to enrich Oregon Ridge Nature Center and Park. Her goal is to help people connect with the environment and realize that their choices play an important role in the status of our world community. She joins the rest of the staff in their goal to grow and further advance the environmental opportunities at ORNC.

A native of Maryland, Jessie enjoys making people laugh, spending time with family and friends, following the Ravens and Orioles, and of course, all things outdoors. She also became a new bride in November. **WT**

HELP SAVE THE BAY AT TAX TIME: Check Line 35



No convincing should be necessary. True Marylanders love their crabs and they love the Chesapeake Bay. Checking Line 35 on the 502 tax form gives taxpayers an easy way to help save the Bay by voluntarily contributing to the *Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund*. The proceeds from this check-off are split evenly between Bay restoration grants provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and rare species programs run by the Wildlife and Heritage Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. With fully 90

percent of the Trust's expenditures directed to Chesapeake Bay restoration and education programs, Maryland residents can be confident that their donations are leveraged appropriately. A bonus is that whatever amount you donate this year is tax deductible in the following year.

If you are filing a different form, here are the lines to check: Form 503, Line 13; Form 504, Line 26, Form 505, Line 39. **MJS**

ORNC COUNCIL THANKS JIM CURTIS

Jim Curtis's term as Council President has ended, allowing him to relax and enjoy his other volunteer interests at ORNC: Web Master, Trail Guide, Master Naturalist, and on-site photographer when needed. Those who have read issues of the *Trailblazer* between 2010 and 2013 are aware of some of the difficult issues Jim has faced during his tenure. Jim guided the council through the loss of critical ORNC staff, the challenges of incorporating and purchasing insurance, updating our by-laws, and most recently, concerns over Columbia Gas Transmission's pipeline construction project, which is scheduled to begin in 2014.

Jim inspired Board members to meet the high standards and goals he set for the Council. Under Jim's leadership, Council volunteers and staff have worked together to complete the adjustable/mobile animal room display and the Natural Play Area & Garden, launch the Master Naturalist Program (Jim being a member of the first graduating class), purchase a much needed all terrain vehicle and a high definition projector, create a large Membership Display Board, install a number of new benches throughout the park for visitors to enjoy, promote a large event featuring a well-known speaker as part of our Speaker Series, and increase the number of students aided by our Scholarship Program. Not only has Jim been a critical player in promoting all of these goals, he has also developed a new Web site and ORNC Facebook page.

The Council and staff thank Jim for his efficient and tireless efforts during his time as President. **MJS**



OREGON RIDGE COMMUNITY GARDEN SEASON THREE REGISTRATION

It's not too early to start planning those spring and summer gardens. Many of our community gardeners will be returning again and have priority registration. New applications for any remaining plots in the 2014 growing season will be on a first come, first serve basis, starting February 15. Gardeners will have the chance to grow organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers in an area that is pre-tilled and receives full sunlight. There is deer fencing and water available on-site. Each plot is 10'x10' for \$15 each. Multiple plots can be rented for the year depending on availability. For more information, visit our Web site www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org or call 410-887-1815. **WT**



TRAILBLAZER STAFF

This issue of the *Trailblazer* combines part of the Nov-Jan issue and the Feb-March issue. Our apologies for the missed issue. Our newsletter editor was under the weather.

Editor/Design/Layout: Mary Jane Shanks

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Writers: Mary Jane Shanks, Winny Tan
Photographers: Jim Curtis, Bill Diegel, Steve McDaniel, Christine J. Shanks, ORNC Staff

OREGON RIDGE NATURE CENTER
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410-887-1815; Fax: 410-887-1816
info@oregonridgenaturecenter.org;
www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org

Articles and graphics for the April/May/June issue are due February 4, 2014.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OREGON RIDGE BETTER!

Oregon Ridge Nature Center serves thousands of visitors and has hundreds of programs and special events throughout the year. Our volunteers help maintain the quality of the programs, exhibits and trails at the Nature Center and Park.

Eagle Scouts must complete a service project in their community to demonstrate their leadership skills. Currently a couple of Eagle Scouts are continuing their preparations to complete their projects, such as an orienteering course and a future Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly way station. Mazen Knio repaired a portion of the Orange Trail this past September, with a rail and better steps on a steep section. Ben Jones (see photo below) recently added a split rail fence to our Nature Play Area, defining the area and providing boundaries for little kids at play. The skills and time put forth by these Scouts and their troops are extraordinary.



Oregon Ridge Nature Center conducted our 4th Maryland Master Naturalists program. We want to acknowledge our recent Master Naturalist interns, who completed the fall course, as well as our recent graduates of the program. Participants must initially attend 60 hours of training and complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service within a year. Master Naturalists help with projects, programs, special events, trail maintenance, and administrative work at the nature center, as well as supporting other environmental organizations in the community. Thank you for all your wonderful work! **WT**

SPRING 2014 NATURALIST TRAINING

Registration for spring’s Master Naturalist training, hosted by Oregon Ridge Nature Ctr. with Robert E. Lee Park, begins January 1. Contact Jessie Jeannetta (410) 887-1815, or jdgreen@baltimorecountymd.gov, or visit www.masternaturalist.umd.edu for general program information and an application form.

Class of Fall 2013 Graduates:

(Left to Right) Instructor Shannon Davis, Helga Morrow, Nancy Horst, Michele Steinitz, Betsy Bauer, Lynn Faulkner, Instructor Winny Tan.

(Not Shown: Leigh Cochrane, Matthew Hand, Sybil Hebb, Susan Kinsey, Carolyn Puckett, Gail Stetten)



Class of Fall 2014 Interns:

(Bottom, Left to Right) Instructor Shannon Davis, Kaitlin Coolahan, Don Callahan, Chris Carpenter, Andrea Calderon, Ellen Mering, Andrea Barnett, Stevanne Ellis, Joan Hoblitzell, Maria Hult, Daria Tewell, Instructor Winny Tan.

(Top, Left to Right) Dennis Zagurski, Ted Martello, Leila Hadj-Chikh, Heather Amos, Chris Hirsch, Lisa Clossen, Jim Kelley, Joe Mowery, Theresa Worrell



SAVE ENERGY AND HELP ORNC

Winter is a blessing and a curse. The beauty of leafless trees silhouetting the horizon and snow transforming the landscape inspires the artist in us all. The cold winter air crackles with an exciting energy that is palpable. Sadly, a lot of costly energy is also leaking through the windows and doors in our homes, making the inside temperatures sometimes feel almost as cold as the outside. Energy audits help homeowners find ways to increase energy efficiency and reduce usage (often at no expense), improve indoor air quality, produce consistent interior temperatures, reduce drafts, and improve humidity control and ventilation.

One of our presenters in 2010’s Speaker Series was Kurt Pfund, the cofounder of Zerodraft Maryland, an energy auditing and retrofitting consultancy based in Towson. Kurt spoke on pain-free ways to cut home utility bills and carbon emissions. Kurt has a long time connection to ORNC. He was a Ridge Runner throughout his teens, and has always loved the Center and hiking and skiing in the Park. A few months prior to his talk, he performed a free energy audit for the Nature Center.

Recently Kurt informed the Council about a change in funding to statewide utility energy audit programs that substantially lowers the cost of energy audits to only \$100 and allows homeowners to divert part of that fee to non-profits like the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council. He approached the Council about forming a loose partnership with Zerodraft. His proposal is very simple. If our members should desire to have a home audit performed by Zerodraft, half of the \$100

fee will be donated to the Oregon Ridge Nature Center and half will be returned to the homeowner in the form of a gift card. Zerodraft is able to make this offer due to subsidies the company receives from utilities such as BGE.

If you have been thinking about going greener by reducing your fuel/electricity consumption and carbon emissions, you can help ORNC at the same time. Zerodraft has earned 5-star ratings on Google and is listed on Angie’s List. The company’s efficient and pressure-free audits are educational and can result in real savings to the homeowner by identifying areas of costly energy loss and waste. 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: www.zerodraftmd.com/. **MJS**

REMEMBER: Mention your ORNCC Membership!

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PROGRAM

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ZERODRAFT

Building Energy Efficiency MARYLAND

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
AND SIGN UP A FRIEND, TOO!

Many branches make a strong tree. Many members make a strong Council. Check your mailing label for your membership status: “C” current, “E” expired, and “X” *this is your last issue unless you renew now*. Use this membership form to renew and give a copy to a friend.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State ____ Zip _____

___ \$ 15 Individual

___ \$ 20 Family

___ \$ 12 Senior Citizen/Student

___ \$ 25 Non-Profit

___ \$ 50 Sustaining

___ \$100 Corporate

___ \$100 Patron

___ \$150 Lifetime

Checks payable to ORNC Council, Inc., 13555 Beaver Dam Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030