

TRAILBLAZER

Fall 2018



*Supporting Oregon Ridge
Nature Center for 36 years*

HONEY HARVEST FESTIVAL 2018

**OCTOBER 6 - 7
11 to 4**

Free Admission
(Minimum Charge for Some Activities)



Enjoy Fun Crafts * Live Music * Puppet Shows * Animal Encounters * Apple Cider Pressing * Haystack Treasure Hunts * Civil War Reenactments * S'mores Around a Campfire * Food and Honey Ice Cream * Blacksmithing and Wool Spinning Demos * Churning Demos * and more fun.

Honey Extraction and Open Hive Demos will be performed by Ms. Jenny Gross, 2018 American Honey Princess.



ORNC COUNCIL SPEAKER SERIES

THE WILD BEES IN YOUR BACKYARD: You Can Make a Difference

By Sam Droege
Wildlife Biologist, US Geological Survey

September 17, 7 – 8:30 PM, ORNC Auditorium

Sam Droege's macrophotographs of wild bees are simply works of art. His photos reveal his passion for his subject and for protecting and supporting habitats for our native bees. Maryland has over 400 species of native bees. These small dynamos, some as tiny as a grain of rice, provide no honey, pollinate most of our crops, live underground, rarely sting, and never cause allergic reactions. Even though it takes only 5 flowers worth of

pollen and nectar to create a new bee, their numbers are declining. A little known fact is that mowing kills more native bees than pesticides! You can help reverse these declines. There are over 100 species of bees within a one-mile radius of your own yard, and they are all looking for native flowers and shrubs. Droege's presentation will inform how you can be an important link to increasing populations of these minute native pollinators. You will leave with ideas for the best plants to add to your landscape and a better understanding of the importance of our native pollinators.



Halictus ligatus



Sam Droege grew up in Hyattsville, received an undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland and a Master's at the State University of New York – Syracuse. Most of his career has been spent at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the Bioblitz, Cricket Crawl, and FrogwatchUSA programs, and worked on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently, he is developing an inventory and monitoring program for native bees, online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org, and reviving the North American Bird

Phenology Program with Jessica Zelt. As an aside, he is looking for volunteers interested in helping photoshop high resolution photographs of insects...see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbiml/>. He can be contacted at sdroege@usgs.gov.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE 2018–19 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

All presentations are free and begin at 7 in the ORNC Auditorium.

If you would like to recommend or be a speaker, please contact the Nature Center.

January 21	Ciaran Harman	Hopkins Hydrology Research at Oregon Ridge
March 18	Charlie Davis	Natural History Society of Maryland
April 15	Loren Lustig	Heroes of Conservation: Their Legacy and Messages for Today
May 20	Bill Curtis	The History of Northhampton Iron Furnace

NOTE: SPEAKER SERIES NOW BEGINS AT 7

4000 YEARS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE

By Astronomer Sethanne Howard

United States Naval Observatory (retired)

October 15, 7 – 8:30 PM, ORNC Auditorium

Science is a traditional role for women. For over 4000 years of written history, women have participated in this great human adventure. Science and technology are neither new nor difficult for women, anymore than they are for men. Yet missing from our textbooks and data are the fundamental contributions of all scientists, but especially female scientists. Female creativity and genius fill our technical past. The stories of these women not only provide role models for future scientists, but they also strengthen and broaden our ability to deal with the present. Dr. Howard will cover the exciting and enchanting history of women in science and technology – where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.



Sethanne Howard is the first woman to receive a degree in physics from the University of California, Davis. She received a Master's in Nuclear Physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a PhD in Astrophysics from Georgia State University. She has worked in various scientific fields including oceanography and meteorology. Dr. Howard worked with x-ray satellites at Los Alamos National Laboratory and NASA/Marshall Space Center, working with the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (a NASA satellite). At NASA Headquarters, she managed several operating NASA astrophysics satellites and mission programs. After a three year stint at the National Science Foundation as the Program Officer for Extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology, she moved to the US Naval Observatory (USNO) in October 2000, where she was Chief of the Nautical Almanac Office and produced the book used as an international standard by the astronomical community.

ASTRONOMY AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

By Jim O'Leary

Senior Scientist, Maryland Science Center

November 19, 7 – 8:30 PM, ORNC Auditorium

Where on Earth would you find the clearest, darkest, driest skies for observing the heavens? Astronomers agree the South American Andes of Chile offer the best combination of dark skies, high mountains, light pollution controls, and a welcoming government. Jim O'Leary was fortunate to be among nine astronomy educators chosen from across the U.S. to travel to Chile and visit the remote astronomy observatories located there, meeting with astronomers and other astronomy educators as part of the Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassador Program funded by the National Science Foundation. O'Leary's talk will explore the geography of the Chilean Andes that make them ideal for astronomy and will feature the US-supported observatories located there – Cerro Tololo, Subaru, SOAR and ALMA, the latter at a breathtaking (literally) 16,404 feet above sea level. He will also include images of the gems of the southern sky – the Southern Cross, the Magellanic Clouds and the center of the Milky Way high overhead.



Serving the Maryland Science Center (MSC) for more than 30 years, Mr. O'Leary is responsible for the planning, production and presentation of programs in MSC's Davis Planetarium and the Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory and is MSC liaison to large-format (IMAX) film producers and distributors. He has produced dozens of programs for the Davis Planetarium, seven of which have played in more than 650 planetariums worldwide. O'Leary serves as Vice President for Production for the Museum Film Network, on the Professional Development Committee of the Giant Screen Cinema Association, and is a Fellow of the International Planetarium Society. Since 2001 he has hosted the weekly Skywatch radio program on the local NPR affiliate, introducing listeners to the latest space science and astronomy news.

LOTS OF FALL ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY

TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING September 4-7, 10 AM -1 PM

If you enjoy nature and educating youth, consider joining Oregon Ridge's Trail Guides, a group of volunteers essential to the success of school field trips to our park. Trail Guide volunteers lead small groups of students on explorations throughout the forest, meadows, and streams in search of flora and fauna within Oregon Ridge Park. During training, different topics will be explored each day, all related to the types of school field trips being offered, including: Habitats, Rainy Day Activities, and Chesapeake Bay and Native Americans. No experience is needed, only a willingness to learn and inspire others! There is a \$20 fee for first time attendees. Advanced registration is required.

OREGON RIDGE GETS A "LITTLE FREE LIBRARY"

Oregon Ridge Nature Center is one of eight Baltimore County parks to receive a *Little Free Library* (LFL). Students from Eastern Technical High School built the *Little Free Library* structures, including ours. However, our LFL box was originally placed at Rockdale Park, where it was almost destroyed. It was rebuilt by Public Works and installed here in the corner of our Kid's Nature Play Area. The Friends of the Hereford Library have kindly adopted Oregon Ridge's LFL and solicit donations to keep our box filled with a nice selection of books. We encourage everyone to visit our LFL to "take a book, leave a book." If you have additional books to donate, but find that the box is full, you can leave them at the front desk. We will be monitoring the box and adding books as needed. Nature related books are especially welcome.



NATURE QUEST UPDATE: Nature Quest Fest Set for 10/21, Lake Roland

Nature Quest is a family outdoor adventure -- bike, hike, or canoe in designated areas to complete your Quest and earn prizes. Trail markers can be found at Lake Roland, Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Benjamin Banneker Historical Park, Cromwell Valley Nature Center, Marshy Point Nature Center, Honeygo Regional Park, and the Center for Agriculture and Farm Park. Start your adventure by picking up a Nature Quest Passport at one of the participating parks, your local Wegmans, or online. Questers who complete at least five trails during the year receive free admission to that year's **Quest Fest** and a chance to win great prizes. The **Quest Fest** features live animals, canoeing, archery, face painting, dam tours, live music, raffles and more.

For more details or to download a Passport, go to: <http://OregonRidgeNatureCenter.org/NatQuest.html>.

Complete Your Quest in Three Easy Steps

1. **Get your Quest Passport booklet.** Pick up a booklet from a local Wegmans store or at participating parks.
2. **Start hiking.** Take your booklet and head out on the trails. Record your progress by making a rubbing, using a pencil or crayon, of the trail marker located on each of the thirteen trails in the booklet.
3. **Collect your prizes.** Prizes are awarded after accumulating rubbings from at least 5 of 13 trails and can be picked up at any of the participating parks. In addition to prizes, questers who complete five or more trails also receive free admission to **Nature Quest Fest on October 21st, from 10 AM to Noon, at Lake Roland.** Questers who complete nine or more trails will be entered into drawings for great prizes.



AUTUMN'S AWE

By Naturalist Jessica Jeannetta

I consider myself lucky to live in an area where seasonal change is so pronounced. Autumn is my favorite time of year. I love the cozy feeling of fall and all the activities that come with it – back-to-school, pumpkin spice lattes, apple picking, football games, holidays, and fall décor. Aside from the fall fun that's happening in the human world, something far more exciting and fascinating is happening in nature. In fact, even before the official start of fall on September 22, this year's Autumnal Equinox, animals and plants alike have responded to nature's cues and have set to work getting ready for seasonal changes, without the need of a clock or calendar.

No matter where you go in the park, you will see these changes happening. Plants populating every habitat will soon show signs that autumn has arrived, the most brilliant and recognizable being the colorful deciduous trees. Warm, sunny days and cool, frosty nights that cause sap to flow in February are the same factors at play to mark the end of the growing season in early October, yielding such spectacular fall foliage. As these trees prepare for their winter dormancy, they will seal off or cork their leaf stems, send sap to their roots for winter storage, and begin to slow the process of photosynthesis. As a result, chlorophyll will break down and leaves will lose their green color, leaving behind the intense hues of reds, yellows and oranges.

Go for a walk in the meadow and you will see grasses going to seed, ready to wind-pollinate and provide a nutritious food source for local wildlife. Thistle is opening, providing a feast for sparrows, finches and other birds. Beautiful goldenrod is in full bloom, attracting butterflies and also taking much of the blame for the sneezing and wheezing caused by seasonal allergies, when the real culprit is the nondescript ragweed that is also blooming this time of year. In the forest, acorns are dropping from oak trees and scattering on the trails, fueling cache supplies for wildlife. Fungus will soon be in full bloom as it spreads its spores throughout the forest floor just before the first hard freeze, ensuring next year's growth.

Insects, too, are preparing for the colder months ahead as most are not equipped to handle cold weather. Unlike some insects, honeybees stay active all winter and have been preparing throughout summer and fall by storing honey they have made for winter consumption. Wasps will die off except for the queen, who will hibernate under bark or rock and start up a new colony in the spring. Many insects will



survive the cold weather by remaining as pupa underground, emerging in spring as adults. Others remain quite lively under the warmth of the leaf litter in the forest.

With the exception of a few young birds singing in the early morning, you may notice that the forest, once filled with the beautiful songs of so many birds, is now utterly silent. This is because the majority of our feathered friends are done with mating and breeding and are now concentrating on eating to build up their fat reserves for their long journeys south. Songbirds will migrate at night under the protection of darkness, while their primary predators – hawks and other raptors – put on a spectacular migration show during daylight hours. Many songbirds, like swallows and warblers, can be observed flocking together, perhaps waiting for the next cold front to signal them off to their winter homes. Others, like the American Robin, are preparing to remain in the area throughout the winter. Robins adapt to the seasonal changes by moving out of backyards and into forests, switching their carnivorous, summer diet of caterpillars and insects to an herbaceous diet of seeds in the fall and winter. Despite popular conception, birds don't migrate because it's cold. If you stop and think about it, birds are covered in layers of down feathers that do such a good job providing insulation that humans use their feathers to fill our winter jackets and blankets. The real reason for bird migration to other areas in the winter is to find more readily available food sources.

Autumn also brings about preparations for mammals. Just as we need to put on more layers for warmth, mammals in the fall are actively feeding to build up their body fat.

(Continued on Page 11)

ORNC DEPENDS ON THE GOOD WORKS OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

JACOB SEESE ENJOYS BEING A RESPONSIBLE RIDGE RUNNER



Jacob Seese wanted to become a Ridge Runner so he could work with animals. He says, “Being able to help makes me feel good and accomplished.” Feeling good about accomplishments is one of the most important outcomes of having a job. Jacob would encourage his friends and other teenagers to join the Ridgie team because it is a “great way to better learn responsibility and accountability.”

Jacob’s favorite Ridge Runner duty is feeding the turtles and frogs because he likes their interesting features, such as beaks and tongues. His favorite animal at the Center is the False Map Turtle because he is intrigued by its markings and “inquiring eyes.” Jacob takes all of his animal care responsibilities seriously, but surprising mistakes happen now and then. While cleaning the Lop Rabbit’s cage one day, he forgot to prop open the cage door and it closed while he was inside. He laughingly explains, “The hook latched and I thought I was trapped! Luckily, I was able to reach through and unhook it.” It is funny stories such as this that Ridgies love to share with one another and the staff.

Jacob is a rising sophomore at Towson High School and maintains a 3.74 GPA. His favorite subject is science, particularly Earth Science. At home he enjoys reading and drawing. In the future, he thinks he would like to explore the realm of chemistry, perhaps studying to become a research chemist or biotechnologist. Until then, we are glad Jacob Seese is part of our Ridge Runner team and look forward to working with him throughout his high school years.

MASTER NATURALISTS ARE AN ASSET TO OUR PARK

Last spring, a class of 15 participants completed the 9th Master Naturalist Training at Oregon Ridge. To become certified as a Maryland Master Naturalist (MMN), trainees must participate in 60 hours of training, complete a project benefitting the park, and serve 40 or more hours of community service within a year of course completion.

This year’s class truly wowed the staff with their time and dedication to their projects. Many have noticed the extensive overhaul of the small pond that is featured at the front of the Nature Center and the new, improved Native American gardens in the garden demonstration area. Other projects not as easily seen, but equally wonderful, include a flying squirrel feeding project, nature trail revitalization, plantings in the new handicap accessible garden beds, updates to the Kid’s Corner in the library, expansion to senior programs, and environmental conservation signage for the Center.

We want to recognize and welcome *Marty Brazeau, Joel Clements, Dayle Daphny, Amy Deputy, Michael Eversmeier, Sarah Henson, Jane Holloway, Will Jones, Jes Maaswinkel, Betsy McCaul, Dana Murray, Glen Schultz, Ging Shamberger, Cindy Snyder, and Barbara Zea.*



The 2016 class completed all of their yearly requirements and are officially *Master Naturalists*: Jeanne Andrews, Maureen D’Angelo, Andrea Evelius, Tom Farrell, Lisa Franck, Debbie Sarantinos, Russ Schumann, Mike Waltz, Steve Wilson and Pat Yevics. Thank you for your service!

To find out more about the MMN program, visit the University of Maryland Extension Service webpage (<https://extension.umd.edu/masternaturalist>). Applications for Oregon Ridge’s spring 2018 class will be available this December, call the Nature Center or visit our website to inquire.

NATURE CENTER STAFF: COMINGS AND GOINGS

SIX INTERNS PROVE INDISPENSABLE IN SUMMER 2018

This summer at ORNC, we were grateful to have had six hardworking college interns, who were all eager to learn and jump into a variety of tasks and projects in the park. Each worked to provide quality care to our education animals, assist with summer camp and outreach programs, tend to our gardens and trails, install benches, maintain the canoes and tubes, assist with marketing efforts, and even update the animal tracks along the driveway. Their dedication and willingness to help wherever there was a need was greatly appreciated by the staff and visitors they encountered.

- *Damase Bagbonon* is a student at Loyola University earning a BA in Biology
- *Korbyn Gehlbach* is earning a degree in Environmental Science & Conservation Biology at the University of Vermont
- *Cody Vergel de Dios* is a senior at Towson University studying Animal Behavior and Psychology
- *George Shaffer* is a Towson University student who recently switched to an Environmental Science major
- *Isabel Faust* is studying Earth and Environmental Sciences at University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA
- *Kaitlin Krueger* is a senior at UMBC pursuing a dual degree in Biology and Environmental Science



Damase Bagbonon



Korbyn Gehlbach



Cody Vergel de Dios



George Shaffer



Isabel Faust



Kaitlin Krueger

DIRECTOR JUSTINE SCHAEFFER RETIRED IN JUNE

After only a year as Director here at Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Justine Schaeffer decided to retire this past spring. Though her time here was short, the Council enjoyed working with Justine, whose calm, easy demeanor and naturalist expertise helped during the abrupt juggling of Recreation and Parks personnel last summer.

During Justine's tenure, some ongoing projects were completed and several new projects began. The library renovation finally reached fruition. The pipeline installation and logging activities also came to an end. The ORNC Council began an ambitious goal to renovate our trail system. Justine was an invaluable asset in lining up potential companies to evaluate and perform the trail work, as she had been through a similar experience at Benjamin Banneker Park. Additionally, the Bee Nursery and Habitat Exhibit was started and completed under Justine's watch. Justine also faced a number of challenges while here, including the *Forest of Hope* controversy.

After working as a naturalist/scientist for over 40 years, Justine wanted to shift her energies to other endeavors involving her family and her own personal interests and goals. She left a lovely handwritten note to the staff expressing her feelings. It said, "I'm leaving with a mixture of feelings — excitement and happiness and a bit of sorrow, too, for leaving people I have greatly enjoyed working with. Continue to make a difference in the world and enjoy everything that comes your way. I'm sure we'll meet again." We certainly hope we do meet Justine again, sooner than later.

TRAILBLAZER STAFF

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Articles/Photos for Winter issue due 11/19/2018

OREGON RIDGE NATURE CENTER COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

By PRESIDENT PAT GHINGER

Our fiscal year drew to a close at the end of August, and I wish to pass on some of the year's highlights and provide a glimpse into the future for the Oregon Ridge Nature Center and Council.

Our membership numbers increased to 645 as of July 2018, and donations also increased from the previous year. A cadre of about 82 active volunteers regularly give their time to ORNC. A total of 5,208 volunteer hours were logged in at ORNC for the many events and programs that are offered at the Nature Center. Without the tireless help of these wonderful volunteers, the staff could not offer the many varied and exceptional programs and events that take place at ORNC.

The council finally saw the completion of the library renovation. The renovation has taken three years, but it is now a wonderful multi-purpose room that includes new flooring, a 3-dimensional mural, new shelves, cabinets, counter, and a sink. A new floor was also installed in the auditorium. Future plans include new light fixtures in the auditorium and wall mounted HVACs in both the auditorium and the library.

The Council has upgraded our web hosting security service to protect the site from hackers. Further, for our online credit card receipts and database management, we are now utilizing a secure encrypted server through the Wild Apricot Company. The website is monitored and updated on a weekly basis by our volunteer Webmaster.

This is the 24th consecutive year that the ORNC Council has awarded scholarships to graduating seniors who demonstrate academic excellence and plan to pursue environmental studies in college. Four scholarships totaling \$19,000 have been awarded.

Once again this year, the monthly Speaker Series was very well-attended and presented diverse and interesting speakers. This series will be offered again in the fall, starting September 15, 2018.

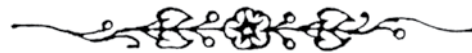
This year was not without its challenges and disappointments. In September 2017, fifty-three large, healthy canopy trees in Oregon Ridge Park were painted as a fundraiser for a private foundation. The artists involved covered the lower several feet of the tree trunks with thick, brightly colored acrylic paints and installed 54 signs. The paint is permanent and will be on the trees for many years. This unfortunate tree painting

project is contrary to established educational and recreational purposes and goals of the park, and its effects are contrary to the mandate of the Department of Recreation and Parks, which is to protect the plants, animals, and land in all parks.

In looking towards the future, the Council held a strategic planning session this year to determine long-term projects that would be addressed over the next three years. The main project that was decided upon was to address the conditions of the Oregon Ridge hiking trails and to develop a maintenance plan to insure quality hiking trails in the future. To guide us, it was decided to use a professional company that specializes in trails such as the ones we have at Oregon Ridge.

As always, a great deal of work is required to maintain the wonderful newsletter that keeps us informed of the ORNC upcoming events, speakers, and current topics, as well as the website, exhibits, library, special projects, and the annual special events. I want to thank the Executive Board members for their dedication towards making all of this possible.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the Council members, staff, volunteers, and donors that make our activities at Oregon Ridge possible. It is your commitment to and interest in the events and programs that ensures the continued level of quality that is demonstrated at Oregon Ridge Nature Center.



Pat Ghinger is passing the gavel after serving as President of the ORNC Council for 5 productive and challenging years. The ORNCC Board has admired her tenacious dedication and devotion to Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Thank you, Pat!

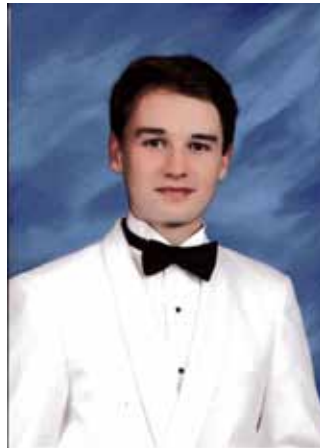
PRESENTING OUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

By Polly Roberts, MD, Scholarship Chairperson

This is the 24th consecutive year that the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council has awarded scholarships to graduating seniors who demonstrate academic excellence and plan to pursue environmental studies in college. Four scholarships totaling \$19,000 have been awarded.



Harry Holt, III



Kyle Brown



Emily Badin



Sarah Westrick

Harry Holt, III, a graduate of the Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, has been awarded a total of \$9500 to study environmental science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He will receive \$6500 for freshman year and will be eligible for an additional \$1000 for each following year. A total of \$4000 of Harry's award is made possible thanks to the Getty Dutrow Mullan dedicated scholarship. He has been a member of his school's Green Club for 3 years and for the past year has volunteered as a naturalist intern at the Irvine Nature Center, where he enjoys teaching children, working with raptors, and monitoring native birds. He has also served as a volunteer for the Baltimore Audubon Society. He is presently conducting an experiment with a type of worm that will eat styrofoam during its larval stage! Harry's career goal is to "discover new ways to clean up our planet to make it a healthier place."

Kyle Brown, a Loyola Blakefield High School graduate, has received \$5500 to pursue studies related to the environment at Loyola University. He served as co-president of his school's Environmental Club, where he initiated environmentally-sustainable projects such as composting and the utilization of reusable utensils and tableware for school dining. Kyle is interested in teaching, policy, and research.

Emily Badin, a graduate of the Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, has been awarded \$2000 to study environmental policy at the University of Maryland,

College Park. She believes that her major contribution to environmentalism to date is her commitment to veganism. Emily hopes to eventually intern at the Environmental Protection Agency and ultimately work on public policy at the global level.

Sarah Westrick, who graduated from Catonsville High School, has received \$2000 to pursue environmental studies at Gettysburg College. Writing is one of her strengths, and she hopes to use analysis, persuasion, and grant writing to assist with environmental efforts, particularly those related to conservation and lobbying, at the state and federal levels.

**TO EACH OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS,
WE WISH TO SAY . . .**

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BEST
BOW! WISHES!

CAMP ADVENTURES AND A STREAM IS NAMED

SUMMER CAMP SIZZLED IN 2018

This year's Summer Seasonal Naturalists – Elena Konstant, Laura Penhallegon, and Maggie Popp – led six weeks of fun and adventure-filled camps for 192 campers ranging from age 4 to 13. Some campers and their parents were excited to see Maggie's familiar face, since this was her second season leading camps for Oregon Ridge as she continues her studies at Towson University in pursuit of an Environmental Science degree. Both Elena and Laura joined us as recent college graduates. Laura graduated from McDaniel's College with a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation. She was excited to have the opportunity to share her passion for the outdoors by providing hands-on experiences to youth. Elena earned her BS in Integrated Science and Technology from James Madison University and is no stranger to the park. Last summer she assisted with events at the Oregon Ridge Lodge and was excited to join the ORNC staff this year to better utilize her education and experience. Luckily, all three will stay on as part-time naturalists at Oregon Ridge. We were also incredibly lucky to have a team of 11 youth serve as Counselors in Training, who enjoyed showing animals and helping campers with crafts this summer.

The *Little Discoverers* kicked off the summer by going on explorations in the park. Laura especially enjoyed our youngest campers, finding their excitement and curiosity to be contagious! *Wild Things* campers had a blast searching the stream for aquatic critters and looking at the diverse number of insects in the meadow during a scavenger hunt. *Outdoor Adventurers* practiced their best survival skills, but by far the most memorable activity was making twig boats and testing their ability to float. Campers quickly recognized Elena's expertise in helping to build their boats. The *Wilderness Explorers* were to embark on several off-site adventures in parks throughout Baltimore County, but unfortunately the wild weather caused rescheduling of the ropes course and some cancellations, resulting in onsite substitute activities.

For the second year in a row, we offered an *After Camp* option for camp families. Returning Summer Outreach Specialist Rachael Ginsburg, wrote the curriculum and headed it up. Weekend Naturalist Sarah Duffy led the second week. Activities continued the daily camp themes, including making slime and insect aspirators, animal encounters, outdoor explorations, crafts, games, snacks and more. All in all, it is safe to say we had another successful summer camp season.



Elena Konstant (upper L), Maggie Popp (upper R), Laura Penhallegon (lower L), and campers enjoyed summer fun!

A STREAM NAMED WOLMAN RUN

In April, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, a division of the United States Geological Survey, approved the proposal to apply the new name *Wolman Run* to a previously unnamed stream in Baltimore County's Oregon Ridge Park. The newly named stream primarily flows south through the park and enters Baisman Run near Ivy Hill Pond. The name honors Markley Gordon (Reds) Wolman (1924-2010), a Johns Hopkins geomorphologist who was considered a leader in river science. Wolman studied and conducted research on Baisman Run, returning many times with his children and students to study water flow and sediment distribution. The Baltimore Sun ran a story about the original proposal to rename a section of Baisman Run for Wolman. However, Baisman Run was not renamed; instead this small, unnamed tributary feeding into Baisman Run was given the honorable name. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/towson/ph-tt-wolman-run-0601-20160830-story.html>

Wolman Run is 0.35 miles long, heads 0.5 miles SW of Oregon Pond, ESE of Big Spring, 2.6 miles WNW of Cockeysville at 39°29'11"N, 76°41'34"W, and flows generally south through Oregon Ridge Park to enter Baisman Run 0.8 miles SSW of Oregon Pool.

PIPELINE, BIG TREE, AND LIBRARY UPDATES!

PIPELINE AND LOGGING UPDATES

by Jim Curtis

It appears that the Columbia Gas Pipeline Project is nearly complete. In June the erosion and sediment control features were removed from the Shawan Road staging areas and those areas were seeded and mulched. It was reported that 120 lbs. of Deer Resistant Meadow Seed Mix was spread in the staging area. The meadow mix contains native meadow plant seeds such as milkweed, black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, and goldenrod. Unfortunately, the meadow mix was applied in July, so there is some question whether the seed will germinate properly. Only time will tell. When the meadows are finally restored, Columbia's work should be done.

A detailed inspection of the areas logged in the park is being planned for this fall. We hope to evaluate the impact of the logging activity on the park. Look for my report in a later issue.



MORE UPDATES

ORNC'S BIG TREE: Oregon Ridge's Big Tree Tulip Poplar now appears on Maryland's Big Tree website. As it turns out, it is ranked the third biggest in Baltimore County and is among the top 25 in the state. The #2 tulip poplar beat us by 1 point, as it is 1" bigger in circumference (even though our tree is 1' taller) and has a slightly wider crown spread. Check it out:

http://mdbigtrees.com/tree_detail.aspx?tree=TR20180521060103120

LIBRARY FINALLY COMPLETE: The Library renovation is now complete with the installation of a sink and running water. HOORAY!

(AUTUMN'S AWE Continued from Page 5)

This is particularly important for true hibernators, such as groundhogs and bats, as they prepare to enter their hibernaculum (underground burrows for groundhogs and caves or tree cavities for bats), where body temperatures and heart rates drop and breathing and metabolism slows greatly, allowing them to live off the energy reserved in their body fat. Most other mammals will simply become less active in the fall. Squirrels, raccoons, foxes and mice, for example, will hole up in the nests or dens. Squirrels are also fascinating to watch as they scurry around collecting nuts and seeds for their winter caches. You may also notice that, along with your dog or cat, mammals in the wild will shed and grow a thicker coat to prepare for cold weather. Some even say that you can predict the severity of the winter by the bushiness of a squirrel's tail – the thicker the tail fur the colder the winter. While most mammals are slowing down in the autumn, white-tailed deer are becoming more active. Autumn is the mating season for deer, also referred to as *rut*, during which time bucks will rub their antlers on trees, fight with one another for dominance, and herd doe together in their search for a mate.

There is just something magical about the end of summer, when the sun's intense heat melts away, leading to crisp cool mornings, dew glistening on the grass, fading daylight hours, and of course, the spectacular fall foliage as leaves reveal their true colors. And though daytime temperatures may still rise to the mid 80s, creating hopes for lingering summer days, the signs of autumn have begun. Take some time for an outdoor walk in your neighborhood or local park – you won't regret it! Look for nature's amazing signs of change and ponder the ways nature helps animals and plants adapt to lengthy winter months without food and nurtures their instincts to endure harsh seasonal changes. You need only immerse your senses in the season to fully appreciate autumn's awesome presence.





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