

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council
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TRAILBLAZER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2012



Supporting Oregon Ridge Park
 and Nature Center for 30 years



WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT?

HONEY HARVEST IS MOVING TO A NEW DATE!

September 29 and 30, 11 AM to 4 PM

For those who have traditionally made our Honey Harvest Festival a must-go-to event, take note. The date has been changed from October to September, hopefully just temporarily for 2012. The bees and beekeepers will be there to welcome you! There will be local vendors selling their wares, homemade apple cider, rousing music from a local band, blacksmithing, Civil War demonstrations, pottery making, wool spinning, face painting, a petting zoo, puppet shows and plenty to eat. It's all about fun, family, and friends. We hope to see many new and familiar faces.

TRAFFIC ALERT for Saturday, Sept. 29! The "Legacy Chase" at Shawan Downs is also taking place on Saturday 9/29, so **avoid Shawan Road**. Take the Warren Road exit off I-83 and turn left at the first light onto Beaver Dam Road. Follow Beaver Dam Road to the next light (where Beaver Dam turns into McCormack Road). Turn left (this will also be Beaver Dam Road). Turn left at the driveway to the Oregon Grill restaurant and ORNC, just before hitting the traffic light at Shawan Road. **MJS**

DIRECTOR COURTNEY PEED HAS MOVED, TO MAINE!

On July 27th, friends and colleagues gathered to bid goodbye to ORNC Director Courtney Peed, who is starting a new life with her husband in Castine, Maine. The torch will now pass on to a yet-to-be-named successor, who will add another set of footprints to those of Bob Stanhope, Kirk Dreier, and Courtney. In her short time as Director, Courtney embraced the advice of Horace and Byron — Carpe Diem! She seized the day and filled her predecessor's footsteps quite nicely.

Courtney's leadership began in 2009 during a time of upheaval within Baltimore County's Department of Recreation and Parks, and it's been punctuated by change ever since. She wasted no time in initiating many of these changes on her own, putting her unique stamp on everything from redecorating the Director's office to developing new exhibits and implementing dynamic new programming. Capitalizing on her youth and passion, she brought ORNC into the 21st century by incorporating modern technology wherever possible. She created a blog that continues to inform readers of happenings

Continued on Page 5

RENEW NOW! OREGON RIDGE NATURE CENTER COUNCIL



LOW, YEARLY DUES:

- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Seniors/Students \$12
- Lifetime \$150

MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- Bimonthly newsletter
- Member discounts on all programs
- Priority mailing of seasonal calendar
- First option for camp registration
- 10% off Gift Shop purchases \$30+
- "Members Only" events

Full Name _____
 Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Checks to ORNC Council, 13555 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030
 410 887-1815 info@oregonridge.org http://www.oregonridge.org/

ORNC COUNCIL SPEAKER SERIES

HIGHWAY 41 REVISITED: CAMPING WITH NATURE ON FLORIDA'S TAMIAMI TRAIL

with Photographer Cliff Beittel

Monday, September 17, 2012, 7:30 PM

Mankind has always had the urge to control and interfere with nature, many times to the detriment of native species. It happens all over the world, but Florida will be the focus in September as we begin our 2012-2013 Speaker Series. Photographer Cliff Beittel will guide us along Florida's Tamiami Trail, which includes the last 275 miles of highway U.S. 41, as it winds through sandy pines, oak hammocks, and the Everglade swamps.

In 2011, as a new winter resident of Florida, Cliff revisited the area's shorebirds, waders, and other species that he'd been photographing since 1987. Through local media and naturalists, he soon became aware that many favorite Florida species face an uphill battle for survival. Birds like the Snowy Plover and the Roseate Spoonbill (pictured) are threatened by development, rising sea levels,



coastal engineering and water management, mechanical raking of beaches, the introduction of snakes and lizards, increasing numbers of dogs and cats, and people who have left footprints on nearly every square foot of sand. Cliff's presentation will feature his beautiful images of Florida's coastal birds and information about the threats they face.

Cliff Beittel has been selling bird and wildlife photos since 1995. Nearly 400 of his photos have been published in Audubon Calendars, and 17 have appeared as front covers on Cornell University's award-winning quarterly magazine, *Living Bird*. Cliff has also won the world's richest wildlife photo contest and written articles for *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and *Living Bird*.

Don't miss this treat for the visual and artistic senses! **SL**

NATIVE PLANTS THROUGH THE SEASONS

with Alice and Tom Simmons

Monday, October 15, 2012, 7:30 PM

Strolling through Tom and Alice Simmons's gardens is a nature lover's delight. Butterflies flit from flower to flower, Monarch caterpillars gorge on swamp milkweed, birds feast on dogwood berries and carry an array of insect larvae and caterpillars to their young, and honeybees busily sip from bee balm, asters, and black-eyed susans.

Alice and Tom Simmons will share their knowledge of native plants and tell you how you can begin to attract a variety of animals to your own garden.

Tom, a former York Audubon president, has been



interested in native plants since he was a boy. Alice, a York County Master Gardener for 15 years, is actively involved with native plant education.

Tom and Alice met through their shared interest, and have continued to develop and learn from their native plant garden throughout their ten-year marriage. A plethora of animals have been attracted to their property including over 100 species of birds. Their photographs will feature native plants at various times of the year and the insects and wildlife that depend on them. **SL**

AUTHOR DOUG TALLAMY GIVES LECTURE ON APRIL 15, 2013

Many may know of Doug Tallamy's reputation as an author and lecturer. If not, "google" his name. You will find that he is a much sought after speaker and educator on preserving biodiversity in our own yards and gardens.

On April 15, listeners will learn the importance of joining the global effort to create greenways that sustain birds and other wildlife, just by making correct decisions about the design and plant content of their own yards.

ORNCC will be spotlighting Dr. Tallamy's presentation in upcoming issue of the *Trailblazer* and in local newspapers. His lecture, titled after his book *Bringing Nature Home*, will be held at the Oregon Ridge Lodge. Tickets will be sold in advance; admission fees to be announced. Please mark your calendars now.

For more information about Dr. Tallamy, please check out the following websites: **MJS**

<http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/06/garden/06garden.html>



MEMBERS!

Jack was our Membership Mascot.

We think a nice way to remember Jack is by

Renewing your membership TODAY!

TRAILBLAZER STAFF

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Articles for the Nov/Dec/Jan issue are due Sept. 21.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW AT ORNC'S SUMMER CAMPS

By all accounts, summer camp was a blast this year, despite the insufferable heat! *Mom, Me and Nature* and *Junior Naturalist* returned, featuring different nature themes each day. Children spent time outside exploring, discovering frogs, snakes, insects and stream life, and learning how to shoot bows and arrows. Seasonal Naturalists Amy Lang and Gabe Al-Najjar (photo below, center) skillfully planned and executed a summer of fun activities for the campers, and had a great time doing it!



New this year, the *Piedmont Explorer* camp allowed children ages 11-12 to take day trips to local parks, where they could experience different habitats that exist in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Adventure and excitement abounded during these trips. They canoed, fished, seined and hiked, and everyone (including the counselors) returned exhausted and happy.

If your child missed out this year, plan ahead for 2013. Members get first dibs on camp spots and a discount, so renew now and ask your friends to join ORNCC, too! **CP**





MUSIC IN THE WOODS



“If I cannot fly, let me sing!”

This quote by Academy Award winning composer, Stephen Sondheim, captures the emotion that permeates the atmosphere during Music in the Woods each year. We may not be able to fly like the birds, but our souls take flight at the sound of music and our favorite traditional American songs. This year the weather was beautiful. There were so many performances that the music continued well beyond 4 PM. Side attractions included making tissue paper flowers, tie-dye T-shirts, and homemade instruments. Music Go Round provided instruments for our Musical Petting Zoo, where people had the opportunity to handle and try out violins, flutes, and other musical devices. Children sat long enough to have their faces painted. Bob Willasch showcased his Native American flutes, and Griff Atkinson gave mini lessons on the dulcimer while trying to solicit new members to his group, the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Dulcimer Gathering. Returning vendors Beaumont Pottery, Ann McConaughy's Crafts and Baskets, and Frank "Wolf Child" Greene's assortment of Native American wares added spice to the festivities. Last, but not least, ORNC staffer Brandy Horseman injected colonial flair to the affair by demonstrating 18th century dancing.

The day was a complete success thanks to Event Chair Carol Montegna, Volunteer Chair Pat Krasowski, and to the hard work and performances of these volunteers: **MJS**

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Andy Anders | Anita Tyler |
| Gary Anderson | Joe Warfield |
| Lena Appleby | <i>Vendors - Please read article</i> |
| Jim Curtis | <i>Performers and Bands:</i> |
| Seth Dawson | Laurie Ballentine |
| Kirk Dreier | Frank "Wolf Child" Greene |
| Georgette Frederick | Spice Klienman |
| Mary Genovese | Charles Loubert |
| Ann & Jack Kerns | Karen Wingard |
| Pat Krasowski | Jenny & Emily Witt |
| Bill LaBarre | Geller-Raitzyk Family Band |
| Lauren Leffer | Noelle Suzanne Band |
| Vita Maghsadi | Giuliano Folk Duo |
| Carol Montegna | Halyomorpha Halys |
| Kathy Obbagy | Rommel Miranda & Family |
| Patrick O'Neill | Thick as Thieves |
| Scout Stein | |

Georgette Frederick joins Volunteer Chair Pat Krasowski (r) in thanking our volunteers



- Painted Trillium - Kristin, Rob and Susan Meyer
- High Strung Bluegrass Band - John Meredith and band members
- Oregon Ridge Nature Center Dulcimer Gathering - Griff and Cindy Atkinson, Shawn Dipple, Ellise Brahm, Bob Willasch, Merlin Williams, Carol and David Erhardt, Marlin Ballard, Sylvia Sackleh, and Winny Tan
- Oregon Ridge Nature Center Band - Andy Anders, Kirk and Winnie Dreier, Courtney Peed.
- Back Porch Players - Dave and Carol Erhardt and Kim Shapiro
- New Southern Cowtippers - Sandy and Howard Hofferth



Mary Genovese and Winny Tan paint faces



Bring your instruments and join a Jam Session



Frank "Wolf Child" Greene

UPCOMING SPEAKERS 2012-2013

November 19, 2012

Veracruz, Mexico and the River of Raptors

Hugh Simmons

Regional Director Audubon's Mid-Atlantic Region

January 21, 2013

Saved by a Highway? Bog Turtles

Bob Bull

Bog Turtle Surveyor for Wilson T. Ballard Co., Inc.

March 18, 2013

Gospel of All Things Green

Janet Draper

Horticulturist for Mary Livingston Ripley Garden
Smithsonian Institution

April 15, 2013

Bringing Nature Home

Doug Tallamy

Professor/Chair Entomology and
Wildlife Ecology at UDEL

Held at Oregon Ridge Lodge, Admission: \$ TBA

<http://bringingnaturehome.net/lectures>

May 20, 2013

Through the Seasons of Bombay Hook

Pat Ruchlewicz

Educator, Baltimore County Public Schools

ALL PRESENTATIONS BEGIN AT 7:30 PM

Please contact Program Chair Sue Leslie if you would like to give a talk, or if you have suggestions for an interesting speaker. Call 410-887-1815 or Email info@oregonridge.org.

ORNC MISSES JACK THE STARLING

Jack the Starling passed away on August 1. Jack entered the lives of the staff, volunteers, and visitors at the Nature Center in 2001, when Director Kirk Dreier rescued him as a nestling from a disturbed nest. Since European starlings are an invasive species, Kirk thought having one would be a good way to teach how invasive birds negatively impact native birds.



A teenage Ridge Runner volunteer named Sarah Sherman named him after Samuari Jack, a popular animated series at the time. Two young Naturalists, Dawn Harry and Winny Wong (now Winny Tan) raised him and quickly experienced something about starlings that some of us did not know. They talk! They are relatives of mynah birds! Winny and Dawn talked to Jack early on and soon Jack was talking back...*How ya doin'? Jack Jack Jack! What are you doin'? Hi, Jack.*

Over the years, Jack learned from Kirk how to whistle the familiar tune to Green Acres. If you are too young to remember the theme song from the TV comedy series of the late 60's and early 70's, check it out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjrpzOgGg1Y>. Jack's repertoire expanded and included the wolf whistle (Jack's and Kirk's favorite), and more recently, someone heard him whistle Happy Birthday.

Funny stories abound, too. One early morning, a County maintenance crew came in to fix the stove. It was dark and they couldn't find the light switches. Suddenly someone said, "What are you doin'?" They had locked the building after entering, so they were surprised that someone was there. They called out, "Hello, is someone here?" Silence! So they looked all around, including the bathrooms, and could find no one. Still creeped out, they began to work on the stove when they heard the voice again..."What are you doin'?" Then, "How are ya doin'?" They finally realized it was Jack the Starling.

Jack was willful, loved to perch on unreachable places, pooped all over the Office Assistant's chair and paperwork, landed on many heads and pecked away, and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team. Most recently he was made the Membership mascot. He was playful, lovable, and did a lot to boost the reputation of starlings for the folks at Oregon Ridge. We miss him. **MJS**

TRAIL GUIDES LEAD THE WAY

Trail Guide Training

September 4 - 7, 10 AM - 1 PM

Hiking! Sharing! Exploring Nature! Trail Guides enjoy these activities at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center while leading children on one hour walks through the fields, streams and forest of the Park, searching for birds, insects, snakes, frogs, flowers, trees, and everything else that inhabits the area. If you like volunteering outdoors, we hope you will join our ranks. No prior experience is needed. Each day of training covers a different topic, ranging from insects to Native American skills.

Advance registration is requested, but isn't mandatory. The \$25 fee is due the first day of training and is fully refunded after you lead your first hike. **MJS**

ORNCC ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Jim Curtis, Council President

Another year has flown by and I find myself thinking of our progress this year and our plans for the future. In the past year, we have successfully managed and operated our annual events and completed several improvements at the Nature Center. Unfortunately, our Director/Naturalist, Courtney Peed, has moved on to pursue her interests in the State of Maine. We will miss Courtney. Fortunately, our very capable Naturalist, Winny Tan, will take over as acting Director.

During this past year, the Council was required to hurdle several bureaucratic and legal obstacles put in front of us. We have incorporated, purchased insurance, met several new County requirements, and updated our bylaws. I want to thank the Board members who put so much time and effort into achieving these requirements. Hopefully, during this next year, we can spend less time with paperwork and government officials and spend more time working on our main purpose — to promote and develop nature programs and projects at Oregon Ridge. Despite the recent difficulties and requirements, the future looks promising. Below, I want to give you a summary of the past year's major activities, and give you a glimpse of our future plans.

A major project initiated by the Council involved the purchase of an all terrain vehicle. In an effort to assist the Nature Center staff and to aid in trail maintenance, we purchased a John Deere "Gator." While this purchase was initially delayed due to some indecision on the County's part, we finally came to an agreement and decision in June. We know the staff will find this vehicle invaluable for accessing the far reaches of the Park.



One of our most rewarding initiatives is our Scholarship Program. This year we awarded four scholarships totaling \$12,000 to high school seniors pursuing environmental studies. We should all applaud the scholarship committee and the

generous donors to our scholarship fund.

Another active project at the Nature Center has been the Natural Play Area. This project is finally near completion. After a series of unexpected difficulties and delays, we found it necessary to hire a new sculptor to complete the large animal sculptures that are so necessary to the project. They are now in place. Additionally, a number of Eagle Scout projects were incorporated into the play area. With some fencing and a few additional plantings, the project will be completed this fall.



Our established major events — Honey Harvest Festival, Maple Sugar Weekends, the Pancake Breakfast, Primitive Technology Weekend, the Music in the Woods Festival, the Holiday Party, the monthly Speakers Series, and the Summer Day Camps — were successful. Unfortunately, our annual summer picnic was cancelled due to weather. To assist the Nature Center staff, the Board voted to fund an additional staff member for the summer camps.

As usual, there was much work done to maintain on our newsletters, the website, the Facebook page, the library and the gift shop. All of these projects were maintained and generally improved. We were also able to develop a new portable Council display board this year. Our new display board enables us to explain and define the Council's activities. This will be displayed at all our events to describe our programs and to recruit new members.

A new and active source of volunteers this past year has been the Master Naturalists. The Master Naturalists have helped as trail guides, developed the community garden, written articles for our newsletter and web pages, and assisted in many projects at the Nature Center and Park.

Regarding our future plans, we have several projects in the works. Our plans for the near future include a new video projector for the auditorium, a video display describing the trees of Oregon Ridge, and a native bird display. Hopefully, these projects will be completed by the end of the year. We will also be considering new trail maps and outdoor map displays.

Finally, I want to thank all of the Council members, volunteers and donors who make our activities at Oregon Ridge possible. We've had many new groups and individuals volunteering at Oregon Ridge this past year, and I hope that this effort will continue or expand into the next year.

MONARCHS ON THE MOVE

by Naturalist Winny Tan

"Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, she became a butterfly" - proverb

When we think of migration in the fall, most people think of birds. Many birds, like the striking orange and black Baltimore Oriole, are traveling to the southern hemisphere to escape the harsh winter doldrums, and especially to find food in warmer climates. A myriad of animals are taking similar treks for the same reasons, including another orange and black species that often goes unnoticed. It is the Monarch Butterfly!



In our area, the monarch, *Danaus plexippus*, goes through its extraordinary life cycle as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly from summer to fall. It depends on the milkweed, *Asclepias* spp., as a host plant for the caterpillar. The tiny egg is laid on a milkweed leaf. After four days, the little yellow, black and white caterpillar is born and eats nothing but the toxic milkweed leaves. The poisonous foliage protects the monarch caterpillar and butterfly from most predators because the monarch becomes as distasteful and noxious as the milkweed. Thus, if there were no milkweed, there would be no monarchs.

After feasting for two weeks, the caterpillar moves to a more sheltered spot and mysteriously transforms into a beautiful jade-green chrysalis, adorned with flecks of gold around the top. For the next 10 days, it evolves through a process called metamorphosis, eventually emerging as one of nature's most beautiful butterflies. The butterfly feeds on nectar from flowers and also sips juice from ripe fruits during its two to four week lifespan. A first generation butterfly born in March/April will then migrate northward and give birth to a second generation

born around May and June. The second generation will move further north and lay another generation, born in July and August. Most likely, many of these are the butterflies we start to see in Maryland. This third generation will give birth to the fourth and last generation of the year, which will emerge as butterflies in September and October.

The last generation grows and changes the same way as its predecessors, but instead of dying in 2 to 4 weeks, it will live as long as six months. It innately feels the seasonal changes that will wither the larval host plant, and knows it is time to leave and fly south. Using thermals, currents, and generations of DNA memory, the monarchs will migrate to the forests in the high mountains of Mexico to spend their winters. There are other butterflies that migrate, like Red Admirals and Buckeyes, but none compare to the long, arduous journey of the monarch — up to 3000 miles!

Tracking organizations show that this has been a record-breaking year for the monarchs, which arrived early in unprecedented numbers and migrated as far north as Alberta, Canada. The great-great-grandchildren of the adults that appeared on the U. S. East Coast last spring are now returning to roost in the millions on the trees in Central Mexico until February/March 2013. Then they will set out on their journey northwards, which will coincide with the growing cycle of the milkweed, and another succession of monarch generations will begin again.

Being able to observe the amazing life cycle of the monarch is one of Mother Nature's special gifts. To help generations of monarchs continue year after year, plant milkweed in your gardens for the caterpillar and put in different nectar plants to feed the adult butterfly. You can also help tag the adult butterflies so researchers can track them as they migrate! Lastly, become aware of the imperative conservation efforts to protect the delicate forests that provide the winter habitat for the fourth generation of the magnificent Monarch Butterfly.

Sources:

<http://www.monarch-butterfly.com>

<http://www.monarchwatch.org> (tagging information)

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/spring2012/update062012.html> (2012 migration update and maps)

Gardening for Monarchs

*Plants may need certain conditions like sun or moisture, so look into their needs before selecting a plant for your garden.

Host Plants (food plant for the caterpillar):

Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed

Nectar Plants (to nourish a variety of butterflies and other pollinators):

Asters, Bee Balm, Blazing Star, Coneflowers, Goldenrods

INTERNS HELP AT OREGON RIDGE

This past spring and summer brought two interns to ORNC. Andrew McGowan, a graduate of Boy's Latin, started interning in May to complete his senior year. He had spent many summers with Nature Camp, Inc., so he jumped in quickly leading trail hikes for excited children. He never hesitated to dig in the garden, even when temperatures were at their hottest. He cared for the animals and did anything we needed, including cutting up a fallen tree covered in poison ivy. Thank you Andrew! Good luck in college!



Lauren Leffer asked to speak for herself. Please see her entertaining article below, *A Naturalist in the Making*. CP

A NATURALIST IN THE MAKING

By Lauren Leffer

High school seniors at the Park School are given the opportunity at the end of their last semester to intern at any place of their choosing for six weeks. This presumably will provide naïve teenagers with a taste of the "real world." I thought that it would be an opportunity for me to experience what a forty-hour week with a daily routine feels like, and maybe come out knowing something about networking, navigating a traditional work environment, or interacting with coworkers. Perhaps, at the very least, I would end up grateful that I have four more years ahead of me before I have to enter into a full-time, tied-to-a-desk career.

Surprisingly, I didn't get any of those things out of my time at Oregon Ridge this past spring. Instead, I learned basket weaving, fence building, tie-dyeing, bow shooting, frog and bird call identification, bow and drill fire-starting, flint and steel fire-making, char cloth making, how to feed and care for over 40 separate animals, trail guiding, Wal-Mart navigation, bee sting

removal, frozen mice separation, red-leg prevention in frogs, rooster-fighting, chicken-wrangling, opossum-cuddling, and the fine art of developing a farmer's tan.

In what seemed like no time at all, I discovered that working a steady job doesn't have to be a daily grind. "Work" can mean flexibility, creative thinking, and constantly learning new things. In fact, I ended my internship at Oregon Ridge determined to never leave the place (and I haven't yet). It's rare that you come across a group of people, or an environment, as welcoming as the one hiding behind the "Staff Only" door at the Nature Center, and I truly couldn't have asked for a better place to end my senior year or spend my summer.

I got the chance to do everything from leading a group of intrepid elementary school students in an "Oregon Trail" simulation while dressed in full 19th century garb, to wading in a vernal pond in search of bullfrogs. I can now confidently say my favorite animal is a Virginia opossum named Jasmine, and that I've held conversations with a European starling named Jack. I've developed a love of teaching I never knew I had, and I've set a snapping turtle free. I've grown accustomed to wearing hiking boots on a daily basis, and I've learned to appreciate turkeys when they're still small enough to be cute.

For all of the above and so much more, thank you Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Graduating from high school can be a terrifying transition, but now I'm not quite so scared to be growing up.



Lauren Leffer fans the flame



ORNC's first Director, Bob Stanhope, wishes Courtney well.

(Continued from Front Page)

around the Nature Center and the Park's natural history. She also encouraged the Council to open a Facebook page and to improve their website.

Naturalist Shannon Davis, who worked closely with Courtney for two years, says that Courtney had "a *let's get it done* attitude." This determination and willingness to partner with her excellent staff made it possible for Courtney to bring many of her goals to fruition. She was consistently open and supportive of her staff's creativity and implementation of fresh programming and other nature activities. According to Shannon, innovative programming was Courtney's greatest achievement. "Skills, Snacks and Yack Yack Yack" was a popular craft program for women that led to many other "club type" ideas. The calendar is now crowded with new programs that consistently fill quickly, including the "Woolly Bear Preschool" and the "Bumble Bee Garden Club."

Courtney also teamed up with volunteers, encouraging them to do more than they thought possible. By supporting the creation of the Master Naturalists and the Habitat Team, she increased the number of dedicated volunteers who are now committed to improving the Nature Center and Park. Working

hard with the volunteer Exhibit Committee, she was able to help create the new sectional Animal Exhibit Wall, which modernized the center and added pleasing visual and spatial dimensions to the classroom. She worked with the Exhibit Committee and other groups to create the outdoor Gypsy Moth Exhibit and Gazebo, the Natural Play Area, the new opossum cage and owl mew, mass tree plantings, rehabilitation of the outdoor gardens, and two upcoming exhibits on trees and birds. She also managed to continue playing with the Oregon Ridge Band, performing with them at Music in the Woods and the Pancake Breakfast.

Courtney put great emphasis on increasing the exposure of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center. She spread the word at every opportunity. She and Shannon made sure that ORNC was represented at the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Conference, where they presented a program called "Nature in the Asphalt Jungle" that focused on teaching nature in such non-nature surroundings as cities and schools. They represented ORNC at the Towson 4th of July Parade, at several festivals on the "Avenue" in White Marsh, and at a number of Environmental Days sponsored at local schools and libraries.

Courtney began her naturalist career at ORNC as a summer camp leader and a weekend naturalist while earning her Biology degree from McDaniel College. She worked for Carrie Murray Nature Center in Baltimore and as an Immersion tour guide at the Aquarium prior to returning to ORNC as the full-time Naturalist under Kirk Dreier. During this time, she managed to earn her Masters in Liberal Arts from McDaniel. At the young age of 30, she was the most qualified naturalist to take up the reins when Kirk Dreier was transferred to Marshy Point Nature Center. The Council is proud of Courtney's achievements during her brief tenure as Director of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Despite their brevity, her footsteps are impressive ones for her successor to follow. MJS



Courtney's cake says it all, "Everybody will miss you!"

ANNOUNCING THE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

By Polly Roberts, M.D., Scholarship Chair

The Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council has awarded scholarships to four Baltimore County students who have demonstrated an excellent academic record and commitment to the environment as well as plans to major in environmental studies in college. This is the 18th consecutive year that the Council has awarded scholarships to deserving seniors from Baltimore City and County.

Each of these successful candidates has received a monetary award. Congratulations to our committed and accomplished scholarship recipients! The Council extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who contribute so generously to our scholarship fund. Because of you, we are able to help these deserving young people realize their dreams.



Lisa Litwak: Hereford High School
 Awarded \$5000
 College Plans: Marine Biology major, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Lisa envisions a career in conservation/field research and is especially interested in coral reef ecology.

For two years, Lisa volunteered as an exhibit guide and assistant aquarist at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, specializing in the care of jellyfish. She earned the Girl Scout Gold Award by designing and implementing a reptile rescue and adoption program.



Sydney Willig: Sparrows Point High School
 Awarded \$3000
 College Plans: Zoology major, Auburn University.

Sydney's career goal is the conservation of exotic animals, particularly reptiles and the "big cats".

For three years, Sydney volunteered as a "marsh mucker" at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, caring for snakes and turtles. She has been a "stream wader" with the MD Dept. of Natural Resources for four years, and for seven months has served as a "junior keeper" at the MD Zoo at Baltimore, working with giraffes and gazelles.



Jonathan Peake: Towson High School
 Awarded \$3000
 College Plans: A double major in Marine Science and Biology, University of Miami.

Jonathan envisions a career as a research/teaching professor in marine biology with a focus on reef systems preservation.

Jonathan has volunteered as an exhibit guide at the National Aquarium in Baltimore and has successfully completed advanced college coursework in Bay Ecology/Oceanography. He is an Eagle Scout.



Patricia Dubyoski: Western School of Technology and Environmental Science
 Awarded the Getty Dutrow Mullan Scholarship, receiving \$1000 for each year of college
 College Plans: Environmental Studies, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Patricia has numerous environmental career interests, including sustainable architecture, policy/law, teaching, and activism.

As a team member of her school's Envirothon program, a high school environmental education competition, Patricia specialized in soils and forestry.



ORNCC NEEDS YOUR VOTES!

**TO APPROVE REVISED BYLAWS
 AND ELECT NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS**

**OREGON RIDGE NATURE CENTER COUNCIL
 ANNUAL MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2012, 7:00 PM

This past spring, your Council revised the ORNCC bylaws. A copy is currently available to read on our website: <http://www.oregonridge.org/>. All members in good standing are urged to review the document and make an effort to vote at our Annual Meeting on 9/17. We will also vote on our new slate of officers. The meeting will take place at 7:00 PM, followed by our September speaker at 7:30 PM. Refreshments will be available.