



Lab Notes

AOEA PO Box 5646 Arlington, VA 22205 outdoorlab.org

May 2016

President's Letter

When a beloved institution reaches 50 years, you need a whole year to celebrate! In the summer of 1967, the Arlington Outdoor Education Association (AOEA) was incorporated, so we begin our 50th anniversary year with a kick-off event this June 4th (see details below).

The AOEА will use this milestone to raise funds for our capital needs, such as a replacement for Striker Cottage and land acquisition to buffer the Outdoor Lab from encroaching development. Generations of Arlingtonians have contributed to making the Arlington Outdoor Lab a very special place and all of us have a duty to continue this tradition of giving during our "watch." After all, it is known as the "golden anniversary" for a reason. I hope you will join us on June 4th as we begin our year-long celebration! [Get your tickets here.](#)

-- Mike Nardolilli

In This Issue

[Spring Open House](#)
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The newest edition to the Outdoor Lab "Fleet": our pontoon boat is back in operation! Capable of handling eight passengers, it also allows some of our physically challenged students to enjoy a trip on the pond!

**Join us for this
once-in-a-lifetime event!**

Saturday, June 4, 2016, 7-10 pm

**50 Years and Counting:
*Dancing Through the Decades***

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
4301 Wilson Blvd. in Ballston**

- This fun, casual evening will feature music by local band Still Standing!
- Dance moves from each decade led by the Bowen McCauley Dancers!
- Delicious catering by Lebanese Taverna!
- MC for the event is Good Morning Washington meteorologist Eileen Whelan!

Click Here
To Purchase Tickets

Please join us and invite all your friends! Help us

preserve the Outdoor Lab for 50 more years -- and future generations of Arlington students!

Spring Open House: Saturday May 14, 1-5 pm

Friends and families, come out to the Lab for our Spring 2016 Community Open House. In addition to activities on the pond we'll have fishing, a cookout, hiking and the animal lab.

Hope to see you there!



5th Graders fishing at their recent visit to the Outdoor Lab.

AOEA BOARD CANDIDATES

The following have been nominated for election to the AOE Board of Directors. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting of the AOE Membership on May 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lab Open House.

BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Carol Goodloe (May 2019)

Carol Goodloe has served on the AOE Board for 3 years, and volunteered with the AOE for several years before joining the Board. Carol has loved the Outdoor Lab since she first visited with her sons more than 20 years ago. As an outdoor enthusiast, Carol believes in the benefits of outdoor education, and believes the Outdoor Lab needs to be fully supported by Arlington Public Schools. She is committed to ensuring her grandchild will be able to enjoy the Outdoor Lab. Carol is now retired after a 34-year career with the Department of Agriculture in international trade and policy issues.

Clarie Hardie (May 2019)

Claire Hardie has lived in Arlington for the last five years, and has two sons who attend Discovery ES. She was introduced to the Outdoor Lab through a third grade field trip when there was still snow on the ground and loved the experience. Claire has many years of professional experience as a corporate accountant and now works as a bookkeeper for a number of small local clients. She also served as Treasurer of the Nottingham and Discovery PTAs for three years. Claire is looking forward to bringing these experiences to help continue the strong financial management of the AOE.

Michael Nardolilli (May 2019)

Michael Nardolilli is an experienced nonprofit executive with a long love affair with the outdoors. Growing up in his native Jersey City, Mr. Nardolilli

helped to preserve what is now Lincoln Park West and to assemble the property that became Liberty State Park. After a successful 18-year career as a corporate litigator, Mr. Nardolilli became President of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust where he created six public parks and preserved over 5,400 acres of Northern Virginia from development. As President of the C&O Canal Trust, Mr. Nardolilli tripled the Trust's annual donations to the C&O Canal National Historical Park and received the Chairman's Award for Achievement from the President's Advisory Council for Historic Preservation for the Trust's "Canal Quarters" program.

Mr. Nardolilli's current activities include service as Vice Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and as Executive Director of the Montgomery Parks Foundation. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including being named by Washington Life Magazine as a "Green City Leader" in 2011 and as a "Hometown Hero" by WETA in 2007.

Anita Scott (May 2019)

Anita K. Scott has seen the Outdoor Lab grow from its infancy and has many memories to share. As one of Phoebe's 5 children, she grew up with a great love of and appreciation for nature and the great outdoors. After graduating from W-L here in Arlington, she earned her BA in English from Westhampton College, taught school for more than 33 years in Arlington (mostly at Williamsburg), and in 1988 received her MA in Humanities from Marymount University.

It is very exciting for her to see the second and even third generations of Arlington students come out to the Lab, especially since it is increasingly important in our digital world for our children to spend time learning outside.

**Arlington Outdoor Education Association, Inc.
Ballot & Proxy**

The following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors of the Arlington Outdoor Education Association, Inc. will be placed in nomination at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Outdoor Lab on Saturday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m.

If you are a member of A.O.E.A., Inc. please mark your ballot and bring it to the Annual Meeting at the Outdoor Lab. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may mark the ballot, sign the proxy, and mail it by May 11, 2016 to: Secretary, A.O.E.A., Inc., P.O. Box 5646, Arlington, VA 22205.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES
(Check as many as you desire)

For 3 year terms, ending 5/2019

_____ Carol Goodloe
_____ Claire Hardie
_____ Mike Nardolilli
_____ Anita Scott

As marked above, I hereby authorize the Secretary to cast my ballot on May 14, 2016 for the above slate in the election of A.O.E.A., Inc., Board of Directors. I further authorize the Secretary to cast my vote for other matters properly brought before the meeting at the discretion of the Secretary.

_____ (Date)

_____ (Printed Name)

_____ (Signature)

What's Happening at the Lab?



In other exciting Lab news, Munch the snapping turtle's new aquarium has arrived! With help from your donations, the AOEA was able to purchase a substantially larger aquarium for our growing snapping turtle. Munch the snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) is one of the many fascinating members of our Animal Lab.



MUNCH!

The position of Munch's aquarium in the Animal Lab allows students to gather on either side and watch her at their eye level as she displays her unique feeding behavior. Snapping turtles are omnivores and scavengers, consuming both plant and animal

material, whether alive or deceased. They will eat invertebrates, fish, reptiles, and even small mammals. In addition to its powerful beak, a snapping turtle rapidly lunges its head forward, expanding its oral cavity to create a vacuum to suck its prey into its mouth.

Student Conservation Association (SCA) Trail Work at the Outdoor Lab

Last Summer the AOEAspent \$35,000 for a three-week residential group to perform trail work at the Lab. It was a terrific experience for the participants and provided much needed attention to the trails. The AOEAs plans to continue having SCA return again this summer to continue improving the OL trails. Provided below is the report that the SCA wrote on their experience at the Lab.

Executive Summary

The Outdoor Lab (OL) is a facility that provides science and outdoor education opportunities to the students of Arlington County Public Schools. Amidst the 225-acre property, there are three miles of trails that are used for various nature hikes and recreation. We were given the task of improving the Pine Mountain Trail, with a focus on making one section of this trail safer and easier for students to hike. The OL has had no significant trail maintenance done on this part of the trail since it was built by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in 1977.

We removed or leveled pointy, dangerous rocks out of the tread, installed stone steps and a staircase (made of an additional eight stone steps), and improved trail drainage by building drainage structures and enhancing the outslope of the trail. Several members of the OL staff were able to hike the trail towards the end of our time working there. The staff was pleased with the improvements being made and was grateful that a previously dreaded section of the trail is now more accessible and achievable for everyone.

SCA - Student Conservation Association

The mission of SCA is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. SCA was founded in 1957 by Elizabeth Putnam, a college student with a big dream. While at Vassar College, she developed her senior thesis around the concept that a commonsense solution to the abuse and under-maintenance of America's treasured public lands would be putting to good use the energy, talent and hard work of a force of youthful volunteers.

In the intervening 56 years, SCA has deployed a force of more than 70,000 members, completing 26 million hours of conservation service in 550 parks, forests, wildlife refuges and urban green spaces at the national, regional, state and municipal level in all 50 states.

The SCA Conservation Corps program serves the communities

and land throughout the nation by accomplishing significant conservation service projects that enhance and protect natural areas and by providing educational opportunities to promote the understanding, protection and stewardship of these natural areas. The four programmatic outcomes are taken directly from the mission: Service, Leadership, Conservation and Stewardship.

Service is the hands-on experience and skills that SCA members need to perform conservation based work on and for our partners and the land.

Leadership is about creating positive and safe experiences; developing self-awareness and understanding one's personal strengths and limitations; supporting individuals and groups to maximize their accomplishments; and developing the management and decision-making skills to unite people and resources towards a common goal.

Conservation is the foundation of SCA's mission to shape environmentally focused leaders and stewards. This begins with a basic understanding of the natural world and our interaction, relationship, and impact on it. Furthermore, SCA members should develop an understanding and appreciation for the history and ethic of the conservation movement and how it influences decisions now and for the future.

Stewardship is the commitment to care for one's complex and diverse community- human and natural - and the ethic and action that support continued health and use in the future.

Member Outcomes

None of the crew members had done trail work in the past, most of them had never camped so intensively, and some had never even slept in a tent before. The crew grew by leaps and bounds in their knowledge of the outdoors, conservation practices and trail skills.

One member who had not spent much time outdoors prior to this project eagerly dove in and learned everything he could about camping and the wilderness. For more experienced campers, it was still a challenge to learn to camp with such a large group in only one campsite for three weeks.

We had to practice the seven Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics during our time at the Outdoor Lab in order to leave our campsite and work area natural. The LNT way of camping was new to some of our crew members and got them thinking about our impact as conservation workers on the land. The members will hopefully continue to practice LNT in their future outdoor adventures.



Trail Work! That's a big rock!

During our last week on this project, a group of summer camp students from the OL were able to hike the trail while we were working on it. The crew members set up stations around our worksite to share their knowledge of trail work with the campers. In addition to sharing about their SCA experience, the members also focused on explaining the purposes of the steps and drain dips that they had installed. They also highlighted one of the crush stations and shared how local resources are used to create new trail structures.

The campers benefited from learning about SCA and were inspired by the "cool" high school students doing trail work. The crew members also benefited from getting to know the population that would use this trail in the future as well as affirming their trail maintenance knowledge through effective communication with their audience.

Because of this experience with SCA, many of the crew members are thinking of pursuing another opportunity to serve on a crew with SCA or AmeriCorps. Many members exhibited the knowledge, traits, and ambitions that would make excellent leaders in this field.



SCA "Trail Blazers"

GET YOUR OUTDOOR LAB GEAR!!

Always wanted an Outdoor Lab t-shirt, hat, or hoodie or pullover sweatshirt? We have them! Send an email to sandidouglasparser@msn.com for color, size and type. Local delivery!



ARE YOU AN OUTDOOR LAB SUPPORTER?

We depend on support from individuals and family members to help cover our operating costs. Contributions can be sent to AOEA PO Box 5646, Arlington, VA 22205. Thanks to our members and contributors who have allowed us to provide an opportunity for outdoor education for thousands of Arlington Public School students since 1967!

President: Mike Narddilli
Vice-President Bob Schrider
Treasurer: Maureen McManus
Secretary: Mary Ann Penning

Committee Chairpersons

Facilities & Maint.: Bob Schrider
Fundraising Ron Oleynik
Outreach: Judy Collins
Newsletter: Todd Parker

Other Board Members: Paul Diehl,
Carol Goodloe, Felix Herrera, Anita Scott
Paula Wolferseder Yabar

Sincerely,

