

School Year Wrapping Up at the Lab

It's hard to believe another school year is almost over! Scott McKeown, APS Lab Supervisor, commented, "It never gets old - seeing the joy and wonder on kids' faces as they spend time here."

School year field trips to the Lab are winding down now with the final three fifth-grade overnight trips this month. Day trips will continue through early June, and then Lab staff turn their attention to planning for the three weeks of summer camp in late June and July. We are excited to welcome this year's summer campers!

If you have photos to share of your students' time at the Lab, please send them to memories@outdoorlab.org or tag #lovetheODL on social media.



85 Acre Land Acquisition

During the Open House earlier this month, the AOEA and many supporters celebrated the acquisition of 85 acres of open space - the largest land conservation project since the Lab was established in 1969. We're grateful to the Schellenberg family for selling the property to the AOEA.

This acquisition ensures that the ridge top of Biscuit Mountain remains free from rapidly encroaching development and offers expanded opportunities for hands-on environmental education during APS field trips.

AOEA is very grateful to the Knipling Family members who generously supported the land purchase.



Welcome New Board Members and Officers

At our 2025 Annual Meeting, AOEA elected new board members.

Welcome to **Jonathan Crawford**, **Kerri Hannan**, and **Margaret Schaus**. **Claire McArdle**, a rising senior at Yorktown High School, will be our student board member. Current board members **Becky Lake**, **Heather Spence**, and **Bill Thornton** were elected to additional terms.

We also recently elected new officers.

Scott Kovarovics, President
Colleen Rocha Levine, Vice President
Margaret Schaus, Treasurer

You can learn more about our board members [here](#).

Honoring Retiring Board Members

Thank you to our retiring Board members for their service, dedication and leadership over many years.

Paul Diehl – Paul's association with the Lab began long before he joined the Board. He drove countless students to and from the Lab as a bus driver for APS. As a member of the Board, Paul maintained connections to APS and was a stalwart representative for the Lab at the Arlington County Fair.

Mike Maleski – Mike served as Vice President and most recently as President of the Board. For over a decade, Mike worked tirelessly on behalf of the Lab leading everything from facility management to community outreach and advocacy. He was the driving force behind our recently completed land acquisition and habitat conservation effort. Mike's hard work and dedication are legendary.

Anita Knipling Scott – Anita played a unique role on the Board maintaining a connection to and being the voice of the Lab's founders, including her mother, Phoebe Hall Knipling. She knew the history of the Lab intimately, including the early challenges, and celebrated the perseverance that paid off over decades as the Lab grew to serve generations of APS students. Anita is an incredible ambassador for the Lab and we're very grateful for her leadership and dedicated service.

We wish our outgoing student board members **Cassidy Greenwalt** and **Margaret Flannery-Goodman** well in their new adventures and are grateful for their exceptional service over the past year (and more!).

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