



Friends of Mason Neck State Park

October 2022 Newsletter

Come and Enjoy Park After Dark
Saturday October 22, 2022
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us for a FREE Family-Friendly Event



Experience the Park like you've never seen it before!



Activities for kids of all ages!
Take a family-friendly walk in the dark!
Sit around the campfire, listen to music
and stories and make S'mores!



Learn about the park's wildlife from our costumed characters!



7301 High Point Road, Lorton VA 22079

The event is free, but reservations are requested so the park knows how many people to plan for.

Please call the park at 703.339.2385

Rain Date: November 5th

Nearly 100 People Joined Us for Owl Moon Under the Stars

We enjoyed perfect weather as Secret Garden Birds and Bees entertained and informed us about Raptors in Fall and Winter at the Friends of Mason Neck State Park's annual Owl Moon event.



Photo by Pam Cressey

For the first time, Secret Garden Birds and Bees brought an American kestrel for everyone to see and photograph. It is very unusual to be able to see these small falcons up close.



Photo by Simone Benson

We also had an opportunity to see and photograph a great horned owl, a screech owl, a red-shouldered hawk, and a barn owl as we learned how they live in the winter.



Photos by Simone Benson

Thank you to the Volunteers Who Helped Clean the Shoreline on National Public Lands Day

Cub Scout Pack 1396 showed up to assist Friends of Mason Neck State Park Board Members Randy Streufert, John Romano and Tom Blackburn as they worked to clean the trash that had floated onto the shore from Belmont Bay on September 24. The six Cub Scouts, one older sister, and their adult leaders enthusiastically roamed up and down the shoreline picking up bottles, cans, and other debris.



Special thanks to John Romano and Julie Hedrick, who canoed out to Sandy Point and brought back a huge amount of trash left over from a summer of parties and picnics, as well as barrels and a complete automobile tire and wheel that had floated ashore.



Photo by Randy Streufert

Friends Board President Hillary Clawson Was Honored for Her Service with a Resolution by the Virginia House of Delegates

State Representative Kathy Tran and State Senator Scott Surovell presented Friends of Mason Neck State Park Board President Hillary Clawson with Virginia House Resolution 318 commending her for her service to the Mason Neck community.



Hillary has served on the Mason Neck citizens Association for eight years and as its President for six years. She was a founding member of the Friends of Mason Neck State Park and has served as its President for three years. She also is the Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council. Hillary received the award at the Mason Neck Citizens Association Candidates Night on September 27. You can read the House Resolution [here](#).

October Programs at Mason Neck State Park



Mason Neck State Park will host 17 programs and events this month, led by the Park's excellent, trained interpreters and volunteer paddling trip guides. You can find the calendar of events on the Park's [website](#). Just scroll down until you see the list of upcoming events and click on "More events at this park."

Please Help Us Support Mason Neck State Park!



If you are already a member of the Friends of Mason Neck State Park, **Thank You!** Your membership dues and donations help us to support the Park's activities and enable us to fund events such as the Eagle Festival each May, our Owl Moon evening each fall, and the annual Swanfall Holiday Program each December.

If you aren't a member, or your membership has lapsed, you can become a member at [Join the Friends of Mason Neck State Park](#). You can also donate to the Friends [here](#).