

# Friends of



## The Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

Editors: Kendra and John Wells 301-871-7818  
[kendrawells@gmail.com](mailto:kendrawells@gmail.com)  
 Friend's VOICE MAIL: 301-670-4661

Location: 18400 Muncaster Road  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5810  
 Derwood, MD 20855



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maurice Ward

Dear Friends' Members,

Well, according to the weatherman, we are living in the hottest summer ever recorded, so I hope our Friends are staying cool wherever you are. Summer may hang around a little longer, but let's hope for a grand day on Saturday, September 14, from noon to 6:00 p.m. for our annual Bluegrass on the Farm event. We have a great line-up of bands, so come on out and enjoy! I want to thank the many members and businesses who have so generously given their time, talent and treasure to continue making sure that this event continues to be a great success. This event, whether you're a Bluegrass fan or not, is an enjoyable, safe and fun family outing.

I want to thank all of our Friends who attended our July picnic...we had well over forty people attend on a very warm evening. We certainly have some good cooks among us, judging by the empty dishes....and one positive outcome of our picnic: several persons answered the call to serve on boards and or committees...now that's good news!

I also want to thank all those who so generously contributed to the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc. fund in memory of longtime member and Friends' cofounder, Laura Ann Whirley. Our Friends' group continues to receive donations...a special thanks to the 4-H Beef Club and the 4-H Sheep and Swine Club who each donated \$1,000 from proceeds of their sales at the Montgomery County Fair to the Friends in Laura Ann's memory...maybe some of you were there as it was a very nice gesture.

Our year really speeds up after Labor Day....right after Bluegrass on the Farm comes the Harvest Festival in October; Blacksmith and Traditional Arts in November; and Christmas on the Farm to close out our year. Once again, I appreciate everyone's contribution to our success!

Published Quarterly by

Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

President: Maurice Ward; Vice President: Cindy Biery; Secretary: VACANT; Treasurer: VACANT  
 Other Board Members: Robert Lee "Bobby" Allnut, Deborah Lee, Chris Suzich and Howard Williams

## In Tribute to Laura Ann Whirley

By Diane Geary

The Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park was formed when Wendy Hanley, Park Manager, came to talk with me about getting a Friends group going at the Ag History Farm Park. There were already some Friends groups at other parks. Before we had a meeting, I talked with Laura Ann, we discussed the idea and Laura Ann was on board from the beginning. I was very involved in the MC Fair at the time and suggested that we involve Mike Roth who was at that time one of the superintendents of the Old Timers at the Fair. Mike, Laura Ann and I had a few planning meetings with Wendy. We set up plans for meetings, officers, bylaws, dues, etc. Mike became the President; I took on Secretary responsibilities and Laura Ann was the Treasurer.

Laura Ann was a leader from the beginning, she reached out to get others involved and lived close enough to be there to open the building for meetings. She coordinated the newsletter, membership, collected donations, and made sure members' names were engraved on the plaque of deceased members in the conference room. I stepped back from the Friends group as I took on the role as President of the Ag Center, but Laura Ann and Mike kept things going. She was the backbone of the Friends.

With her many contacts Laura Ann always had a suggestion for someone to handle an event, knew who should get a thank you or get well card and managed the Friends' membership, never missing an opportunity to promote the group and engage new people and organizations. After Mike Roth passed, Laura Ann and Mimi Stubbs seemed to be the force that held things together. When I took over the newsletter after I retired, I could not have done it without the information she provided. At that time, I would type the newsletter, she would have it run off and get it in the mail to all the members. She kept the labels updated with year of dues paid.

Laura Ann loved this group and of the original three - she was in it for the long run, Mike passed away, and I stepped back - but she was the constant.

***Laura Ann will be missed, not only by the Friends but by her farmers and the  
Montgomery County agricultural community.***

### Bluegrass on the Farm by Chris Suzich

Don't forget to join us at the Farm on Saturday, September 14th for our 14th annual Bluegrass on the Farm event. This year will feature three wonderful bands:

**Big Howdy  
King Street Bluegrass, and  
Local favorite, Tumbleweeds.**

Music begins at noon and runs through 6 pm. Bring your chair and blanket for seating under our stately trees. Feel free to bring a picnic or purchase delicious food at the farm. Leashed pets welcome. This is a rain or shine event. In the event of inclement weather, we will move inside the barn.

Tickets are \$15 at the gate or buy in advance and save a few dollars at  
[www.Bluegrassonthefarm.com](http://www.Bluegrassonthefarm.com).

Come out and support the Friends of the Farm!

## “What’s It?” Project – Granary Update

Susan Morris and Howard Williams

Granary Policy – please do not remove any of the itemized granary donations without first contacting Howard Williams or Susan Morris. Many items are fragile, have been specifically donated to the granary, and must remain displayed there. Thank you for respecting our donors’ wishes.

We need volunteers who would help us photograph, describe, inventory, and/or display donated granary items as they are received. The time commitment is small AND you can work at home most of the time. Think about the fun you and a few of your friends (or neighbors? Siblings? Cousins? Kids?) could have! Please, won’t YOU step up and volunteer?

We could also use volunteers who would help staff the granary on event days (e.g., Gas & Steam Engine Show, Harvest Festival, Blacksmith’s Show). Students may earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours when they volunteer. If you’re willing to help with the **What’s It? Project – Granary**, contact Howard Williams ([hawckw@verizon.net](mailto:hawckw@verizon.net)) or Susan Morris ([skmorris1@verizon.net](mailto:skmorris1@verizon.net)).

*Thank  
You*

Thank you letters and receipts have been mailed or emailed to recent donors but we know many of you have never been acknowledged for your contributions. Many times items have been left in the granary without identifying information. If you have donated treasures to the granary and would like an itemized receipt, please contact Susan Morris at (301) 482-0439 or [skmorris1@verizon.net](mailto:skmorris1@verizon.net). THANK YOU!

Recent donations from **Joe Ginther** include old Ball canning jars and canning tools, four meat grinders, brown glass bottle, *Sauer’s Vanilla* measuring spoon & bottle opener, and a multi-use tool (jar wrench and can opener). Many of these pieces came from the kitchen of Joe’s grandmother!

**Janet Fernandez** of Rockville gave us a beautiful wooden pitchfork – what a unique piece!

Thank you to **Mary Ann Shirven** for the old *Smith Corona* typewriter. Many of us remember having to change the ribbon on these typewriters, often ending up with blackened fingertips!

The family of our late friend, **Mike Dwyer**, donated several of his possessions including a large handmade basket, old rolling pins, wool carding tools, old wooden scoop, wooden tenderizing mallet, and lovely braided rug.

Do you know how this wooden tool was used? It was included in the Mike Dwyer donations but I have no clue how to identify it. Contact Susan Morris if you know the answer!



Friends of the Agricultural  
History Farm Park, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5810  
Derwood, MD 20855-5810

Please advise of any  
incorrect names, spelling or address  
and report damaged mailings by  
calling the VOICEMAIL line -  
**301-670-4661**

***Is your membership up to date?***

Anyone who has a number less than 19 on your address label means you owe dues.

**Annual Dues:** **I**—\$5.00 individual, **F**—\$8.00 family, **O**—\$10.00 organization, **B**—\$10.00 business.

**Life Membership:** \$250.00 individual

To renew (or join) send check with name, address, email and type of membership to:

Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

PO Box 5810

Derwood, MD 20855.

**Upcoming Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc. Event Dates**

**September 14** Bluegrass on the Farm

Noon—6 p.m. (Gates open at 11 a.m.)

[www.bluegrassonthefarm.com](http://www.bluegrassonthefarm.com)

**October 5** Parks' Harvest Festival

\$15/car unless you are volunteering with the Friends—contact Chris Suzich at [chrissuzich@comcast.net](mailto:chrissuzich@comcast.net)

**November 2 & 3** Blacksmith Show

**December 7 & 8** Christmas on the Farm

**Keep Up to Date! Visit the Friend's Website**

**<http://www.friendsofthefarmpark.org/>**

Newsletter articles are due by November 15 for the December 2019 newsletter.

Send to Kendra and John Wells—[kendrawells@gmail.com](mailto:kendrawells@gmail.com)

14318 Woodcrest Drive, Rockville, MD 20853