

Friends of



The Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maurice Ward

Dear Friends' Members,

Well we certainly have had a hot (and wet) summer. Last year at this time we were still in the throes of Covid, unable to plan with any certainty as to what was to come....and yes, that summer set records as well. Summer may still hang around a little longer, but let's hope for a banner day on the 10th of September when the Friends present "Bluegrass on the Farm," an annual event that everyone enjoys. Whether you're a Bluegrass follower or simply a casual fan, this event promises great music in a relaxed, safe setting.

I want to thank all of the Friends who attended our July picnic...we had a packed room as we elected to go inside because of the intense heat. The food, as always, was delicious with not a whole lot to take home! Thank you for all the donated dishes and desserts.

Your Friends' board participated in the bi-annual gathering of the descendants of the Newman family, one of the many African American rural communities that dotted the rural landscape at the close of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. Part of the existing Farm Park footprint, Newmantown consisted of at least three homes and several outbuildings on thirty-six acres of land, with most residents worshipping at nearby Mt. Zion church. Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the fine food, history and fellowship.

I also want to thank all the Friends who have given so generously in memory of Friends who recently passed away and for those who designated the "Friends of the Farm" as recipient of your generosity. We are most grateful. We hope to see everyone at Bluegrass on the Farm!



Bluegrass on the Farm

Bluegrass on the Farm offers a wonderful day of excellent bluegrass music in an early 20th century farm setting right in the middle of Montgomery County. The Friends of the Farm Park are proud to present three great bluegrass bands on September 10: King Street Bluegrass, The Eddie Dickerson Trio, and Shannon Leigh Reynolds. There is plenty of lawn seating in open areas and among the trees with some shady areas. Bring your own camping chairs and blankets for seating. Food and drink will be on sale or bring your own picnic snacks. Feel free to bring your instruments and jam before and after the concert on the farmhouse porch.

Music will play all day from noon until 6 PM. Gate opens at 11:30 AM on September 10th. Tickets are \$20 per adult. Buy tickets at the farm on September 10 or online now, for a discount, by going to the Friends' website: <https://friendsofthefarmpark.org/>

Children 13 and under are free with a paying adult.
Leashed pets welcome.
Ticket sales are final. No refunds.



The Friends Corner – by Susan Morris

Joan (Josie) Smith Farrell, age 96, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, died peacefully on July 18, 2022 after suffering a stroke. A Friends member, Josie was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Jim Farrell. She is survived by sons, J. Kevin (Rosie) and Douglas S. (Maria) Farrell; daughters, Dr. Kathryn Farrell-Poe (Steve) and Lt. Col USMCR-Ret. Janet (Mark) Lindsey; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. According to Maurice Ward, Josie made our Friends of the Farm quilt and is a cousin of our own Hugh Webb.

Dolores Marie “Dodie” Pope, age 91, retired Montgomery County Public Schools teacher and Friends member, died of natural causes on May 28, 2022 in Gaithersburg, MD. Dodie is survived by her husband of 66 years, Jim Pope; daughters, Catherine Pope and Michelle Kretchmer (Gary); and granddaughters, Heather Dressman, Jackie and Hayley Kretchmer. According to her obituary, Dodie “loved nothing more than doting on children” and “was always thinking of others”.

John S. Stubbs, Jr (Jack), age 90, passed away peacefully at Casey House in Rockville on May 22, 2022. A charter member of the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Jack is survived by his wife of 63 years, Amelia (Mimi) Stubbs; daughters, Ellen (Barry) Brown and Barbara (Gil) Fones; and son, John S. (Angela) Stubbs; 11 grandchildren, 3 great grandsons, and 3 nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Carol Loveless; and grandson, John S. Stubbs IV. Jack served his country for two years in the U.S. Army in Korea. He and his son later started their own business as general contractors. Jack especially enjoyed his collection of antique John Deere tractors. He also owned and operated two steam tractor engines: a 1915 Peerless and a 1909 Stevens, and took great joy running a sawmill with his steam engines at the Farm Park.

THANK YOU to **Anita Campbell**, our Friends secretary, who has offered to send cards (e.g., get well, sympathy, congratulations) to Friends members. Let her know your news (lifeissweet91@gmail.com).

Contact Susan Morris (skmorris1@verizon.net) if you have items for future issues of the FAHFP Friends Corner.

Upon Request: July Picnic Recipe – Sauerkraut Casserole

(thanks to Ethel DeHaven)

1 pound sauerkraut (fresh or canned) (Ethel prefers fresh)
 3/4 cup sugar
 1 (14 ounce) can of diced tomatoes with basil, garlic & oregano
 6 slices of uncooked bacon, cut into small pieces (Ethel suggests using kitchen shears, cutting each slice in half lengthwise and then cutting each strip into 1/4" pieces)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Combine and mix the above ingredients. Pour the mixture into a 7" x 11" casserole dish. Bake for 2 1/2 hours or longer, if necessary (the moisture should be gone and the surface should have a crystallized appearance).

If you double the recipe, pour the mixture into a 9" x 13" casserole dish.

Volunteers Needed!

Dear Friends – We need YOUR help! We have three remaining 2022 events scheduled. All require many hands to execute safely and professionally. Most events require help with food service (e.g., manning the grill, making French fries or sno-cones, taking orders & money, filling orders, serving cookies and cider at Christmas on the Farm), activities (e.g., scarecrow making, kiddie games, hayrides, decorating the farmhouse for the holidays), demonstrations (e.g., staffing the tool museum, blacksmithing, woodworking), set-up and clean-up.

If you and/or your family could volunteer for at least **one** event, we really need your help! Remember – children may earn Student Service Learning (**SSL**) hours when volunteering at Friends events.

If you can volunteer, contact Chris Suzich at chrissuzich@comcast.net.

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022 – Noon – 6:00 PM – Bluegrass on the Farm

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022 – 11 AM – 4 PM – Fall on the Farm

Dec. 3 & 4 OR Dec. 10 & 11, 2022 (TBA) – Christmas on the Farm

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Stepping Back in Time by Howard Williams



Before the days of balers, hay was stored loose in barn haylofts or outdoor haystacks. Once the hay settled, it was difficult to remove from the stack. A hay knife was used to cut through the stack to allow armfuls to be easily removed for feeding the livestock. Today some farmers still use hay knives to cut off small portions of hay from large round bales of hay. The hay knife has two handles, both on the same side, so farmers could work closely to the face of the stack without hitting their hands. The “Lightening Hay Knife” was patented in 1871 by George Weymouth of Dresden, Maine. In 1897 the cost of one of these knives in the Sears & Roebuck catalog was fifty cents. Today on the internet they go for as high as \$150.00.

This tool had a dual use as both a hay knife and an ice saw. It was used to cut blocks of ice from ponds, lakes, and rivers, which were then stored in ice houses on farms. Two of these tools are hanging on the east wall of the Granary. Several visitors have guessed they were used to cut blocks of ice. However, to the best of my knowledge, nobody ever guessed they were also hay knives.

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Did you Know?

2022 marked the 60th Anniversary of the Old Timer’s Show at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Volunteers (some of whom are Friend’s members) share the history of agriculture and rural life as county fair visitors step back in time! Master craftsmen demonstrate woodworking, quilting, canning, and more! Congratulations and thank you to the Old Timer’s for preserving history.

THE BANK BARNS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES

By Howard Williams



I will start with a brief description of a bank barn's structure. The Bussard bank barn (in the above photo) at the Ag History Farm Park is a fine example of a typical bank barn. Most of you have probably had an opportunity to examine the various features of the structure of this barn. Bank barns are large barns that were built into a hillside with the lower stable located on the downhill side and the upper level on the uphill side. The upper area was built using posts and beams that were joined using mortise and tenon joints. This area was used to store hay and grains such as wheat, barley, and oats. The lower area was used mainly for livestock purposes. This area was used as a milking parlor on many farms. The majority of Montgomery County bank barns were built in the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

In the past five years my wife Christina (Chris) and I have been researching bank barns in Montgomery County. So far, we have documented 430 bank barns that have existed in this county. Of these 431 bank barns, 272 still exist in whole or in part.

Our interest in bank barns began in 1989 when we purchased a 200-acre farm (known as the Resenberg Farm) adjacent to our farm in Dawsonville. The Resenberg Farm had a dilapidated bank barn that could have been easily flattened in a strong wind storm. We immediately proceeded to restore this barn. Details of this restoration will be featured in a future article. About five years ago we became curious with regards to existing bank barns in the vicinity of Dawsonville. Our Seneca Creek Farm operation included 1400 acres of crops as well as custom farming operations. I saw many of these bank barns and stored hay and straw in a number of them. For several weekends Chris and I travelled back roads near Dawsonville to document bank barns. We documented 37 of these barns within a 10-mile radius of Dawsonville. Later we documented many more Montgomery County bank barns through on-site visits, history books, newspaper articles, and MD Historical Trust (MHT) documents. We developed a spreadsheet to document bank barns that includes the name of the owner, location, sources of information, and a brief description of the features of the barn.

I will be writing articles for the next several newsletters that will explore various aspects of Montgomery County bank barns.

Membership Dues and News – by Susan Morris

Forwarding Information? If anyone has a new address for Friends member, **Lois Brown** (formerly lived on Gleneagle Drive in Silver Spring), please contact Susan Morris (contact info below). Ms. Brown's June newsletter was returned. Thank you!

Congratulations to our newest Life Member, as of 9/1/22, Robert B. "Ben" Givens (#83). Thank you for your support!

Welcome, New Members! We welcome Gregory Burdette (#1703); John D. Davis (#1709); Karyn, Gabrielle and Sophia Eitel (#1702); Chuck Farmer (#1704); Emily Hill (#1708); Scott Joy (#1712); Autumn R. Klein (#1705); Mya Kyi (#1701); Nancy Lisi (#1707); James K. Palmisano II (#1706), David Richard (#1711), and E. Jeanne Whirley (#1710) to the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park.

Mailing Label Abbreviations: I=Individual, F=Family, O=Organization, B=Business, C=Charter Member, LIFE=Life Member; HLIFE=Honorary Life Member; NM=Non-Member/ Partner. If current, your label should look like this: Example: I22 or LIFE.

Thank you to those Friends members who renewed their memberships this year. Please check your mailing label. If it shows the year 2022 (or beyond) or LIFE on the label, your dues are current. If not, please take the time to renew (membership application form is online at: <https://friendsofthefarmpark.org/>). Mail your membership application and check (payable to Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.) to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5810, Derwood, MD 20855. You may pay using PayPal: contribute@friendsofthefarmpark.org.

IMPORTANT: please include your Email Address, if available. We will never share your email addresses with outside groups but we do need to quickly communicate with our Friends, upon occasion (e.g., event updates, bad weather). Also, please note any additions or corrections to your contact information.

As Charter Member, the late Laura Ann Whirley, once wrote, "Thanks for keeping our P.O. Box fat and happy with your dues!" We do appreciate our Friends members!

If you have questions about your membership dues status, want a Friends membership card, or need to update your contact information, please contact Susan Morris (skmorris1@verizon.net or 301-482-0439).

If you have questions about your dues payment or other financial issues (e.g., missing check, desire to make a memorial contribution or donation, need a receipt, etc), please contact Treasurer, Debbie Lee (dalee1948@aol.com or 301-646-4961).

Fall on the Farm—October 1, 2022—11 AM to 4 PM

Join us at the farm on October 1st for a fall celebration we are calling ***Fall on the Farm.***

The celebration features delicious food for sale, scarecrow making (\$), corn shelling, hayrides, an old-time sawmill demonstration, and woodworkers.

The Granary will be open and we hope to have some demos by our resident blacksmith.

Lots of fun for the entire family

so come see the animals and spend some time at the farm on October 1st!

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

Keep Up to Date! Visit the Friend's Website
<http://www.friendsofthefarmpark.org/>
(Use password **aghpletmein** to access member only information)

Dates to Remember

Saturday, September 10—Bluegrass on the Farm
Saturday, October 1 –Fall on the Farm
December 3 & 4 or December 10 & 11 (TBA) - Christmas on the Farm

Newsletter articles are due by November 15 for the December 2022 newsletter.
Send to Kendra and John Wells—kendrawells@gmail.com
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Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.
President: Maurice Ward, Vice President: Chris Suzich, Secretary: Anita Campbell, Treasurer: Deborah Lee
Other Board Members: Robert Lee "Bobby" Allnutt, Jean Phillips, and Howard Williams