

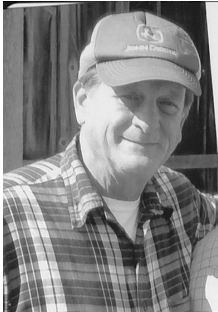
Friends of



The Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

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Derwood, MD 20855



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maurice Ward

Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful Friends picnic in July. Nearly fifty Friends attended with plenty of good food and fellowship to go around. The weather finally broke and the evening was pleasant. We were able to sell some of our delicious bacon and pork chops to Friends' members. It's always good to see new faces.

For those of you who were able to attend the Montgomery County Fair, you probably saw some of our vintage tractors at the Old Timers show. The Friends donated four tractors to the Fair for display during the entire week. The tractors were part of the Sunday parade with Friends members doing the driving.....to great applause from the crowd.

One issue about which many Friends members have voiced their concerns regards the presence of animals on the farm. Your board has re-iterated our position to the Parks that animals play a significant role in educating the public about past farming practices and the role that animal husbandry plays in the development of successful farming operations. We want animals on the farm. We need animals on the farm--and visitors expect to see animals on the farm.

Planning is underway for our Bluegrass on the Farm event to be held on September 7th. This is an event that grows in popularity every year, with great music anticipated. The board would like to thank all who sponsored this event as your contribution helps our non-profit organization continue our mission of offering programs and events on historical farm life and agricultural practices. See you at the farm this fall!



Bluegrass on the Farm

You are invited to the Agricultural History Farm Park on **Saturday, September 7th**, for our annual **Bluegrass on the Farm** outdoor concert event. Three wonderful local bluegrass bands will be playing from 12 Noon until 6:00 PM. Adults: \$20 per person admission at the gate or buy now online at the Friends website to receive a small discount. Children under 13: No Charge. All proceeds support the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park. See the flyer on the Friends website for additional details.



The Friends Corner – by Susan Morris

Our Friends have been busy this summer! We had a wonderful turnout for the July 16th Friends Summer Picnic at the Ag History Farm Park. Then several members helped prepare the indoor and outdoor displays for the Old Timers area at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, August 9 – 17, 2024.



2024 was the fair’s 75th anniversary! Friends members were spotted volunteering throughout the week – serving as judges, department or committee chairs, serving free donuts and coffee to 1,250+ Senior Citizens, warmly greeting fair visitors, running 4-H shows, demonstrating their skills, and much more!

We were happy to learn that four Friends members were honored with the Fair’s *2024 Pioneer Heritage Membership Certificate* which recognizes a minimum of four life members who have continuously given at least 30 years of volunteer service to the Montgomery County Fair. This year’s six recipients also achieved the Fair’s *Honorary Membership* status for having volunteered over **1,000 hours** to the Montgomery County Agricultural Center (MCAC).



Congratulations to **Bobby Allnutt** (pictured here with Fair Board member, Putt Willett), **Karen Gillis**, **Diane Geary** and **Dale Geary**! We don’t want to forget the major impact made by Friends member and MCAC Executive Director, **Martin Svrcek** – thanks for your hard work, Marty!

At this same event, the Fair’s enthusiastic **Senior Citizens Day Committee**, led by Brenda Roundy and Lisa Hilton, was recognized. Friends members who helped on Senior Day: Barbara Whalen, Jeanne Gillis, Karen Gillis, Kendra Wells, Debbie Lee, Susan and Ed Morris.

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Our secretary, **Anita Campbell**, has offered to send cards (e.g., sympathy, congratulations, get well, etc) to Friends members. Please let her know your news and/or who might benefit from a card or note (lifeissweet91@gmail.com).

Stepping Back in Time by Christina and Howard Williams

(Photo credit— Larry Romans)

Clock Reel or Yarn Winder



This wooden clock reel was donated to the Friends of the Farm by an anonymous donor. The correct name for this item is clock reel. It is also known as a yarn winder or spinner's weasel. We found a similar model on the Internet that was said to be made in the late 1700s or early 1800s.

Wool was turned into yarn on a spinning wheel. The clock reel measured the yarn into standard lengths known as skeins. The clock reel has four arms that are used to wrap the yarn. The close-up photo shows the details. The clock resembles a circular saw blade. It is all wooden and has a marked face which looks like a clock.

A handle on the reel side is used to turn this device. The close-up photo shows the wooden worm gear above the clock that advances the clock. A pointer on the clock allows the spinner to see how close the weaver is to reaching a skein. An internal mechanism makes a "pop" sound when the desired length of yarn is measured. The weasel's gear ratio is usually 40 to 1 and the circumference of the reel is usually two yards, thus producing an 80-yard skein when the weasel pops (after 40 revolutions).

Some authorities believed that the nursery rhyme "Hickory Dickory Dock" referred to the clock reel in the phrase: "the mouse ran up the clock". It is also believed by some authorities that the nursery rhyme "Pop Goes the Weasel" refers to the clock reel. For whatever reason, the clock reel was sometimes referred to as "weasel". The nursery rhyme, therefore, was commenting on the pop sound made by the "weasel".

Christmas on the Farm

The Friends will host Christmas on the Farm on
Saturday and Sunday, December 7 & 8, from noon - 5:00PM.
The house and grounds will be decorated, there will be hayrides and more!
We need volunteers both of those days and baked goods for the bake sale.
Contact Julie at julie.carroll@obsidianplanning.com to volunteer,
Be sure to invite your family and friends!

Happy 80th Birthday to a Special Friend!



Paul Leatherman is a life-long advocate for agricultural history and the evolution of the equipment that farmers use in their wonderful occupation of growing our food and fiber. He was charter president of the Frederick County Farm Museum at Rose Hill Manor and was part of the team that started collecting antique farm equipment and educating people about it at festivals in Frederick County.

With the Friends of the Ag History Farm Park, he loves to narrate the tractor parade at the spring and fall festivals, and meets with the Wednesday morning group that supports the park personnel and the Friends special activities.

He is a lifetime member of the Friends. He is also part of the Old Timers at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair and has given jig saw demonstrations on his pedal-powered jig saw at the County Fair and Damascus Community Fair.. A replica of the jig saw that he uses is on display at the Smithsonian museum.

Rounding out his passion for antique farm equipment, he is also a member of the Maryland Two-Cylinder Club (John Deere) and the Maryland International Harvester Club. We are thankful that Paul's friendship with Mike Roth led him to the Friends!



Membership Dues and News – by Susan Morris


Congratulations to our newest Life Member: Rob Wintler-Cox (#90). We so appreciate your commitment to the Friends, Rob!


Welcome, New Members! We welcome **Pete Daly and Family (#1774)** to the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park. Thank you for your support.

Mailing Label Abbreviations: I=Individual, F=Family, O=Organization, B=Business, C=Charter Member, LIFE=Life Member; HLIFE=Honorary Life Member. If your dues are current, your label should look like this: Example: I24 or LIFE.

Members who receive mailed newsletters will find the membership code next to their names. Those who receive newsletters electronically will receive an annual membership status email message.

Please renew AND recruit new members! Those who do not choose to renew their memberships are moved into an inactive file and will no longer receive the Friends newsletters. If you know of anyone who may have neglected to renew, the Membership Application may be found on the Friends website or by contacting Susan Morris, membership chair (see below). Complete and mail the membership application and check (payable to Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.) to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5810, Derwood, MD 20855. Thank you!

 **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., bad weather, emergencies). Also, please note any additions or corrections to your contact information.

 **NOTE:** If you're willing to receive future Friends newsletters electronically (i.e., via email), please notify Susan Morris (skmorris1@verizon.net). Thank you!

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

Harvest Festival — October 5, 2024 — 11 AM to 4 PM

Bring your friends and family to the farm on Saturday October 5th, for Harvest Festival, 11 am-4 pm. Parks will be charging \$20 cash per car to enter the farm for Harvest Festival. Live music, hay rides, pony rides, scarecrow making, wood making and blacksmith demonstrations and delicious food are just a few of the many treats you can expect!

Contact Chris Suzich at chrissuzich@comcast.net if you are able to volunteer.

Harvest Festival will occur rain or shine.

More info at:

<https://montgomeryparks.org/event/harvest-festival/>

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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 7, 2024 —Bluegrass on the Farm

Saturday, October 5, 2024 – Harvest Festival

December 7 and 8, 2024—Christmas on the Farm

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.

Newsletter articles are due by November 15 for the December 2024 newsletter.

Send to Kendra and John Wells—kendrawells@gmail.com

14318 Woodcrest Drive, Rockville, MD 20853

Published Quarterly by

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" Allnut, Jean Phillips, Christina Williams and Howard Williams