



Friends of Little Hunting Creek

22 February 2022 Newsletter

March 2, 7 p.m.—Bald Eagles: A Conservation Success Story.

Have you been thrilled to see bald eagles nesting along Little Hunting Creek in the past few years? We are part of the success story of this iconic bird.

Bald and golden eagles will be the focus of a presentation by Jeff Cooper, a Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) wildlife biologist. Cooper will explore eagle biology, recent research, the bald eagle's recovery and the importance of the Chesapeake Bay region to bald eagles. The talk is sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

Register in advance at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUdeyprD0tGd3X0qQP1pJ3j6XxqziP2btn>. You will receive a confirmation email and Zoom link.



Eagle pair nesting on Little Hunting Creek, 2019. Photo by Steven Keat.

March 17, 5:30 p.m.—Virtual Workshop on Living Shorelines

What are “living shorelines” and why are they preferred in Virginia law? Who decides whether a living shoreline is suitable, and how do they make the decision? What does the law mean for shoreline property owners?

Please bring your questions and concerns to this virtual workshop, conducted by staff from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.



Living shoreline. Photo by Julie Bradshaw.

The Law

A 2020 change in Virginia law says:

- the state “shall permit only living shoreline approaches to shoreline management unless the best available science shows that such approaches are not suitable.”
- If they are not suitable, then elements of living shoreline approaches should be incorporated into permitted projects to the maximum extent possible.
- Permitting decisions shall be consistent with standards set by Virginia to “ensure protection of shorelines and sensitive coastal habitats from sea level rise and coastal hazards.”

The Speakers

Pamela Mason (Senior Research Scientist, Virginia Institute of Marine Science) will explain the variety of living shoreline techniques, how they may be adapted to different shoreline conditions, and some of the “best available science” that is the basis for the preference given to living shorelines in the law. She will discuss how to determine whether a living shoreline is suitable, and if it is not, how elements can be incorporated into other shoreline approaches.

Mark Eversole (Senior Environmental Engineer, Virginia Marine Resources Commission) will explain the living shorelines law and how the permitting process works.

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Friends of Mason Neck State Park, Audubon Naturalist Society, and the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

Register in advance:

https://cwm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYld-6vrDMoGtMFPnz_EC0RPld3WytOTth67

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the workshop.

Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m. to noon—Little Hunting Creek Cleanup

This year’s cleanup date is earlier than in the past, and does NOT conflict with spring break.

Alice Ferguson Foundation, which sponsored the Potomac Watershed Cleanup for decades, has been hit financially by the pandemic and no longer provides cleanup supplies, except in DC.

However, FOLHC still has a stash. We will supply gloves and trash bags if you need them, and arrange for county trash pickup. It’s fine to hold your cleanup another time that weekend, as long as the trash is available for county pickup Monday a.m., March 28.

This year some site leaders may expand their effort to remove exotic invasive vines as well as trash. If you want to organize or participate in cleaning up a site, email betsy@folhc.org with:

- Your name, address, and contact info.
- Description of the site location, and the street address closest to where county trucks should pick up the trash you collect.
- Number of pairs of gloves and bags you need.

We welcome participation by young people looking for community service credit.

Thank you for your past (and future) cleanup efforts!

Friends of Little Hunting Creek, a 501(c)(3) organization
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of Little Hunting Creek is formed exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes. “More specifically, the purpose...is to encourage the preservation of open space, restoration of riparian habitat, improvement in water quality in the Little Hunting Creek watershed, and to promote stewardship and opportunities for recreational enjoyment of Little Hunting Creek by nearby neighbors and the public. The Friends of Little Hunting Creek seeks to improve nearby neighborhoods by organizing and conducting community cleanups of trash and litter on the creek, by educating citizens about stewardship and litter prevention, and by promoting community access to the creek for recreation and respite.”—*Articles of Incorporation.*

Name: _____

Class of membership:

Junior (age between 12 and 18) ____ -- non-voting member, annual dues \$1.00

Class I (age 18 or over) ____ -- voting member, annual dues \$5.00

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone number: _____

Send email to: _____

“I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Inc.”

(Bylaws are found at www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/images2020/bylaws-rev2019.pdf)

(Signed) _____

Date: _____

Mail with your check to: Treasurer, Friends of Little Hunting Creek, 8707 Stockton Pkwy,
 Alexandria, 22308.