



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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Longtime Huntley Meadows Volunteer Honored By VRPS

Over 350 delegates from around the state gathered last week at the 60th Annual Conference of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society in Hot Springs, Va. Highlighting the conference is a formal presentation of awards recognizing individuals, agencies and organizations throughout Virginia who have demonstrated excellence in any of several areas during the previous calendar year. Over 90 applications were received vying for awards in 13 different categories, and the Society paid tribute to Norma Hoffman, a longtime volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park, who was selected for the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award.

In early 2013, Mrs. Hoffman quietly retired from the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park board at 86, citing her age as the deciding factor. She intentionally shed this mantle of responsibility after nearly 30 years leading the group she co-founded, with full faith her legacy of environmental protection and stewardship had been instilled in a new generation. However, this momentous passing of the torch did not signal the end of her involvement with the park. On the contrary, she continued to donate eight hours of her time each week at the front desk of the visitor center, which was renamed in her honor in May 2013.

Hoffman's dedication to Huntley Meadows is as old as the park itself. In 1975, when she moved to the local neighborhood, she learned of Fairfax County's plans to build a four-lane road through part of the newly created nature preserve. She spent the next 15 years rallying the community and fighting for the preservation of its natural and cultural resources as the head of a group called C.A.S.H – Citizen's Alliance to Save Huntley. When the battle was finally over and the construction plans abandoned, Hoffman co-founded the first non-profit advocacy organization of its kind: the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, as well as the Friends of Historic Huntley a few years later.

The mission of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society is to unite all professionals, students, and interested lay persons engaged in the field of recreation, parks, and other leisure services in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more information on the Society contact the state office at 804-730-9447 or visit them on the web at www.vrps.com.

For more information contact the Public Information Office 703-324-8662.

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