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Fairfax County Park Authority
**ELLY DOYLE PARK
SERVICE AWARDS**



**NOVEMBER 16, 2018
WATERFORD AT FAIR OAKS**



Elly Doyle Park Service Awards

Outstanding Volunteer Recognition

Eakin Philanthropy Award

Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award

Harold L. Strickland Partnership
and Collaboration Award

Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award



Congratulations
to all 2018
Award Recipients



Special Thanks

Fairfax County Channel 16

Audio & Visual by American Audio Video – John Elzroth

Harris Teeter Pender Campus

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

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Jeffrey C. McKay, Lee District

Linda Q. Smyth, Providence District

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Fairfax County Park Authority Board

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The Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients Turner Farm Events



Turner Farm Events (TFE) is a non-profit organization with the mission to promote, support and protect equestrian activities at Turner Farm Park. Founded by Sarah Kirk in 2011, the original purpose was to raise funds to support the equestrian facilities so the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) would not have to charge a user fee to riders using the park.

After determining that Hunter horse shows would be the best way of raising money, the first show was organized. It was a huge success, supported by riders and trainers from all over Northern Virginia. Kirk signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FCPA and committed to raising money as an annual donation through the Fairfax County Park Foundation to the upkeep of the park. The original Board of Directors was comprised of Sarah Kirk, President; Kim Karanik, Vice President; and Joey Love, Treasurer. Karen Washburn was added as a member of the board in 2013.

After the first year, the horse shows became an annual event and grew to a series of six-three for the spring season and three for the fall season. They are well supported by equestrians from Fairfax County and surrounding areas, and the horse shows require hundreds of volunteer hours throughout the year. In addition to being an excellent means of fund-raising, the shows are enjoyable for both the competitors and spectators.

TFE has grown through the years and taken on more responsibility for the development and upkeep of the equestrian section of the park. Today, the Board has seven members -- all volunteers. To date, TFE funds have been spent on maintenance of the riding ring, mowing the grounds and cross country course, portable bathrooms, maintenance and repair of the cross country course, repair of ring and cross country jumps, and the purchase of new ring and cross country jumps. In an effort to make Turner Farm equestrian facilities available to all potential users, an ADA approved handicapped mounting block was purchased in 2017.

Program

*Pianist Bob Boguslaw entertains in the lobby
Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar*



Introductions

Marguerite F. Godbold, Master of Ceremonies
Sully District Representative
Fairfax County Park Authority Board



Welcoming Remarks

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Fairfax County Park Authority Board



Presentation of the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award

Penelope Gross, Vice Chairman and Mason District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Presentation of the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award

Kathy L. Smith, Sully District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Presentation of the Sally B. Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award

Jeffrey C. McKay, Lee District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

**Presentation of the Fairfax County Park Foundation
Eakin Philanthropy Awards**

Tim Eakin Walsh, Director
Fairfax County Park Foundation Board



**Outstanding Volunteers Video
Followed by Class of 2018 Photograph**



2018 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Video



Award Presentations



Closing Remarks



Please join us for coffee, tea and dessert after the awards.

**The Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients
Marilyn Schroeder**

Marilyn Schroeder is an award-winning program leader for Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Her volunteer service started in 2006, and for nearly 12 years she has been a role model for all staff -- paid and volunteer. She serves in three major volunteer roles, and in all her programs and activities she strives to enhance the Park Authority's stewardship message by connecting the public with the resource.

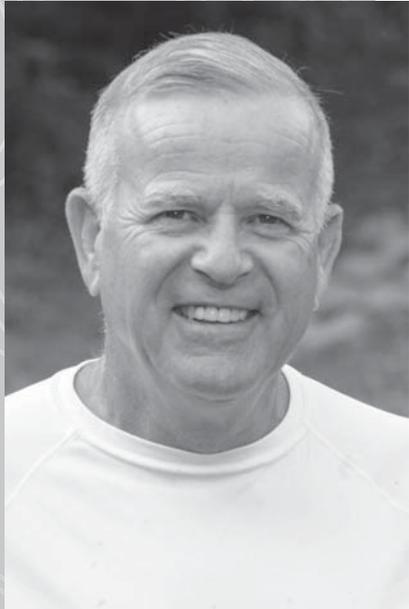
As a program leader for Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Schroeder specializes in the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) and school "outreach" programs. She routinely volunteers for the Resource Management Division's Invasive Management Area (IMA) program and was one of the original captains for IMA. She is also FCPA's liaison for Fairfax Master Naturalists (FMN) and was a founding member of this chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists. In this capacity, she routinely steers over a dozen of FMN's 150 members toward Park Authority programs as volunteer and training opportunities.

She earned the National Association for Interpretation's (NAI) Certified Interpretive Guide credentials in 2007, and she continues to use her skills to offer purposeful, organized, enjoyable, thematic and relevant presentations. Recently, she has interpreted natural history stewardship at critical outreach venues, including the Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect (HACAN) Saturday morning programs, four Rec-PAC summer camp activities at schools attended by primarily low-income students, Earth Day events at a large senior center, and multiple FCPA recreation summer camps. Without Schroeder, Hidden Oaks could not have staffed these programs for these diverse, low-income audiences.

Schroeder routinely earns a Presidential service award by exceeding 100 volunteer hours annually. She has earned Hidden Oaks' Heart of Oaks Champion twice for overall volunteer achievement.



The Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients
Michael Applegate



Michael Applegate regularly maintains and improves the grounds and mountain biking trails in a large portion of Laurel Hill Park -- in the Apple Orchard and Equestrian Center areas. He works an average of 30 hours per week on the five-mile, single-track trail network -- mowing, trimming trees, inspecting and fixing storm damage, improving trail surface and drainage, supervising contractors and scout projects, advising staff on improvements in processes and alterations to facilities to make them more sustainable and to improve the visitor experience. He regularly mows the grass aprons all along the trails, clearing invasive vines, identifying native trees to save from overgrowth of blackberry vines, building ramp curves and moguls to enhance the mountain biking experience, filling in trail wash-out spots, and keeping a watchful eye on the security of the grounds.

Applegate started as a Park Authority volunteer in February 2016, having volunteered previously at the park as a member of Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). His dedication and untiring work ethic has resulted in a level of upkeep and improvement at Laurel Hill Park well beyond the norm.

Applegate's attention to the park's walking trails has increased accessibility and trail usage, and his maintenance and improvement of bicycle trails has made this area a "go-to" spot for mountain bike enthusiasts. He has single-handedly improved the appearance and condition of Laurel Hill Park.

Regardless of the weather, Applegate donates an exceptional amount of time to care of the park at all times of the year. Beyond the park itself, Applegate presents an excellent role model for us all, especially the children who see him and know him in the park, teaching them by example the difference volunteerism can make and the importance of community service to parks.

The Harold L. Strickland Collaboration
and Partnership Award Recipient
The Friends of Green Spring



The Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization founded in 1993 and better known as FROGS, is celebrating 25 years of outstanding service to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). FROGS offers financial and volunteer support to Green Spring Gardens and currently has a membership of more than 1,500 individuals.

Since its inception, FROGS has demonstrated an amazing spirit of partnership and collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). Major projects include the Garden Gate Plant Shop, Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series, Art Shows, Glasshouse renovations, Gazebo renovations, Historic House renovations, the Wheels Appeal (providing utility vehicles for staff), and ongoing funding for summer intern positions and other seasonal staff positions at Green Spring. These major projects are just a snippet of the support FROGS has provided.

FROGS plays a critical role at Green Spring for FCPA's short and long-term strategic goals, including its participation in the planning and adoption of Green Spring's Master Plan in 2015 and 2016. FROGS is also committed to seeing the implementation of Green Spring's Master Plan and has made its own financial commitments to the plan. Since 1993, FROGS has donated more than \$2 million to support Green Spring's operations and special projects. The group's annual income budget represents approximately 25% of projected revenue for the park.

FROGS is a great partner to FCPA, offering tireless support and dedication. FROGS members bring added value to the park by providing mission-aligned programs and bringing new meaning to the word teamwork. FROGS is committed to seeing that Green Spring is a state-of-the-art facility at no capital expense to the taxpayer.

**About the
Harold L. Strickland
Partnership and
Collaboration Award**

The Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award was established in June 2015 by the Park Authority Board. This award recognizes the importance of teamwork and cooperation necessary to provide diverse constituencies with state-of-the-art facilities in our Fairfax County parks, often at limited, reduced or no capital expense to the taxpayer.

Nominees must demonstrate significant, long-term accomplishments that provide county residents with partnerships that sustain or grow programs or facilities while reducing the fiscal obligations of the Park Authority.

The Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award Recipient
Judy Nitsche



About the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award

In July 2013, the Park Authority Board established the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award. This award honors historian, volunteer, and acclaimed author Mayo S. Stuntz, one of the original members of the Fairfax County History Commission, serving from 1969-2012. He helped establish the Landmarks Preservation Committee, worked to preserve county history, and served on the Sully Foundation, Ltd. for a quarter of a century, most of the time as chairman.

This award recognizes significant contributions made by individuals, organizations, or businesses promoting the preservation/stewardship of cultural resources in Fairfax County. Nominees are recognized periodically at the discretion of the Park Board.

Judy Nitsche has brought back to life a garden that was enjoyed more than 200 years ago by inhabitants of Sully, a gentry's farm site in Chantilly built in 1794. Her passion and love of gardening brought her to Sully Historic Site to share this avocation and help protect and preserve a significant garden and place holder of the past.

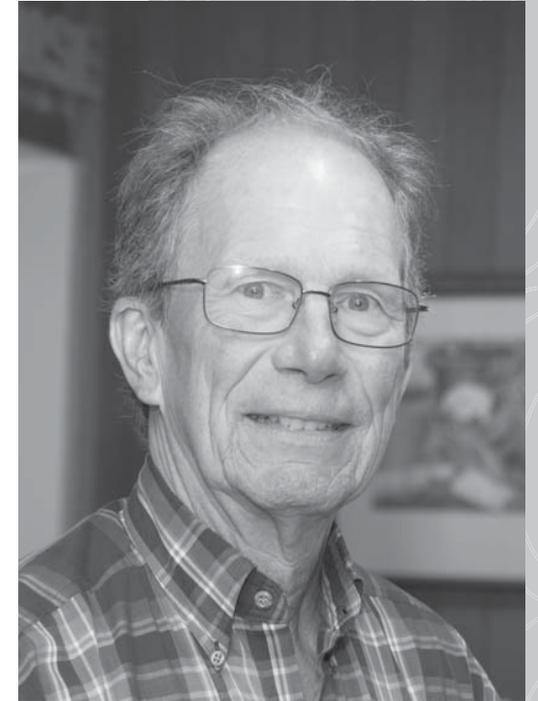
From March 2017 to June 2018, Nitsche volunteered a total of 506 hours. Of those hours, 391 were dedicated to bringing Sully's Federal Period Garden as close to the time period as possible by researching gardening books and Lee family letters from the time. She also assisted staff in proposing major repairs and upgrades to the borders and walking paths of the garden that had fallen into poor condition over the years. The project not only made the garden more appealing to visitors, it also assisted in making it

an American Disabilities Act compliant pathway that is welcoming to all visitors

Nitsche has volunteered in many other capacities at the site for the past eight years. She volunteers year-round in several different roles. In the summer, she takes on the role of head gardener, planting annuals every year, obtaining plants from other sites and working with staff to develop a budget for purchasing other plantings, as well as planning required care and maintenance. She has spent an additional 116 hours helping with daily tours and special events, sharing her historical knowledge of the house and grounds. She has gathered milkweed seeds and packaged them to help increase the Monarch Butterfly population, and she has gathered flowers and herbs from the garden to make sachets that are sold in Sully's gift shop.

By researching period plants and garden design and visiting and meeting with other garden historians, Nitsche has become one of Sully's most knowledgeable and respected volunteers.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Special Recognition
William Tuceling



William Tuceling has been a volunteer at Green Spring Gardens since January of 2013, serving in multiple roles. He is a weekly Volunteer on Duty, a Special Event Volunteer, and the Coordinator of Art in the Garden. In a typical day working as a Volunteer on Duty, Tuceling projects a positive, professional and friendly face to the public. With his extensive background knowledge of the staff and site, he leaves every visitor feeling welcomed and ready to explore Green Spring Gardens.

On top of his role at the front desk, Tuceling coordinates the Art Shows at Green Spring Gardens. This involves the complicated task of scheduling multiple artists in two different buildings and in several different rooms. Along with the shows, he coordinates the art receptions that kick off each show. He regularly puts in extra time to work with staff, volunteers and artists to ensure the art shows include a wide variety of local artists, students and talent.

Tuceling is also a hardworking member of the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) group and is involved in several fund-raising projects, such as the silent auction, summer concert and garden days.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Special Recognition
Wesley Palmer



For the past four years, Wesley Palmer has been a regular volunteer at Greendale Golf Course. He has worn many hats, picking up the roles of Starter, Ranger or Tee Starter. He is a regularly scheduled volunteer, committing to one shift per week all year long.

As a volunteer starter/ranger, Palmer is constantly guiding and working with the golfers to ensure that they are enjoying the course, as well as protecting the course. He works with customers to educate them and help to enforce the necessary guidelines. He also cleans up the course, making sure it's in good shape for the customers.

Palmer has been an excellent volunteer. In addition to his regular weekly shift, he is more than willing to cover other shifts that are not covered. On many occasions, he has come to play golf and notices the course is short on coverage.

What makes Palmer extraordinary is his ownership of his volunteer duties at Greendale. His can-do positive attitude, his willingness to always help, his flexibility, his willingness to go above and beyond, and his ownership of the job makes him special. His commitment to provide the best level of service for customers is recognized by both staff and customers.

The Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award Recipient
Tatiana Lisle



Tatiana Lisle is a leading example of an environmental steward at Green Spring Gardens and with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Lisle protects pollinators by managing bees at Green Spring Gardens and is the site's beekeeper. She is also the volunteer organizer of Green Spring's popular Honeybee Day event, in honor of September being National Honey Month. Her role as the site's beekeeper ensures beautiful flowers for the park, as well as a fighting chance for the endangered honeybee.

As a volunteer children's education instructor, Lisle teaches young people about watershed education, pollinating, horticulture, and stewardship. She volunteers as an instructor with the adult education program, too. In addition, she is a certified Extension Master Gardener with the Green Spring unit.

Lisle is a member of the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) and holds a leadership role as Treasurer of the Board of Directors. She actively volunteers with major events and is the leader for the Gardeners Holiday volunteer craft team. Green Spring Gardens describes Lisle as "our volunteer extraordinaire" who contributes to the park in deep and meaningful ways.

**About the
Sally Ormsby Environmental
Stewardship Award**

The Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award was established in 2007 and recognizes efforts of an individual or organization whose actions embody the spirit and values of stewardship. Through these actions, tangible benefits to the environment and community must be realized. This award is presented at the discretion of the Park Board and honors the legacy of its namesake, Sally B. Ormsby, who was a citizen steward of great renown and accomplishment.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation
Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipient

Washington Nationals



Marla Lerner Tanenbaum, Chair,
Washington Nationals
Dream Foundation

The Washington Nationals are being honored for their partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) through the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation Legacy Fields program, which has provided \$1 million in turnkey renovations to three field diamonds in Fairfax County parks. This partnership resulted in improvements last year for Field #1 at Mason District Park, which was renamed in honor of Washington Nationals Hall of Fame catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez. This year, two diamonds were renovated at Fred Crabtree Park and dedicated as the Bryce Harper All-Star Complex.

Among the field Improvements at Mason District Park were an extension of the outfield to 225 feet to allow for 50/70 play and installation of a new electronic scoreboard. The project also included covered dugouts, new grass and fencing, an upgraded batting cage, shade structures over bleachers, a storage shed and an extended irrigation system.

At Fred Crabtree Park, the project included new covered dugouts, electronic scoreboards and bleachers. Shade structures were added over bleachers. The Field #2 infield was lengthened from 200 to 225 feet to accommodate 50/70 youth baseball play. New fencing and backstops were added and improvements were made to press boxes, a storage building and a restroom-concession building.

About the Eakin Philanthropy Awards

Established by the Park Foundation Board in 2009, the Eakin Philanthropy Award recognizes visionary financial and material contributions to Fairfax County Parks. The award is named for the Eakin Family, benefactors of local parks for over four generations. In 1951, LeRoy Eakin, Sr. donated 14 acres of land in the Accotink Stream Valley that became Fairfax County's first park. Since then, the Eakins have donated 240 acres of parkland and established a trust that provides matching funds for improvements to the Accotink Stream Valley.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Special Recognition

Anthony Consumano

Anthony Consumano approached the Park Authority in January of 2017 about trying to organize a friends group for Cub Run Stream Valley. This was a time of transition for friends groups as FCPA looked to remedy potential liability and organizational issues. He was told to be patient and that the traditional model might not be ideal.

Undeterred, Consumano contacted local HOAs and other groups, pulling together interested individuals eager to help him clean up and maintain the stream valley. He started a Facebook page, developed a logo and business card, and created an email for people to make contact. He distributed flyers and set up meetings to gauge interest. He also conducted a survey to find out who uses the park, and why, and to raise awareness of the group.

By mid-2017, Consumano had created the Cub Run Stream Valley Park Volunteer Team, and the group had established a mission: Preserve, Share, and Connect. He coordinated a fundraising effort through the FCPF.

Consumano is working to create self-organizing teams in local neighborhoods, which would be smaller and more agile and would take care of, promote and advocate for their local part of the Cub Run Stream Valley Park. This year's clean-up included six different volunteer locations and more than 100 volunteers. Because of Consumano's hard work and vision, Cub Run Stream Valley Park is more beautiful than ever.



Elly Doyle Park Service Award Special Recognition

Stephen Brooks



Stephen Brooks is one of the County Archaeological Research Team's (CART) wonderful archaeology volunteers. He primarily volunteers in the lab, where he helps process, preserve, and care for archaeological artifacts. When there is less lab work to be done, Brooks also volunteers his time in the field, aiding in the recovery of artifacts as well as the excavation and documentation of archaeological sites throughout Fairfax County. Brooks began volunteering with CART in June of 2017 and has helped recover and process thousands of archaeological artifacts that will aid CART in the interpretation and preservation of our county's history. Specifically, he is one of CART's most accurate and efficient "pickers."

Picking is a lab process that involves systematically searching through rocks and debris in water-screened soil samples to recover the smallest and most delicate artifacts.

In 882 volunteer hours in the past 12 months, Brooks has helped CART staff water-screen and pick through over 600 cubic feet of soil samples -- an enormous accomplishment for CART that would not have been possible without his hard work. His dedication, diligence, and passion for history make him a truly extraordinary volunteer.

Whether water-screening in the hot sun or picking through bags of teeny tiny rocks in search of scarce artifacts, he tackles each and every task with enthusiasm and an unwavering can-do attitude. Brooks also takes joy in teaching others and is always more than willing to show new volunteers "the ropes." His cooperative attitude and jovial demeanor help to create a friendly and enjoyable work environment for staff and volunteers alike.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation
Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipient
McLean Community Foundation

The McLean Community Foundation (MCF) has donated \$72,845 to the Park Foundation since 2004, including a \$50,000 donation for Clemjyontri Park. In addition, MCF Board Members reached out to other McLean-based organizations to encourage an additional \$60,167 in partner grants and gifts, including a dedicated trackless train and future train station from the Friends of Clemjyontri.

Wherever you go in McLean, you can see the impact of the MCF's civic involvement over the past 35 years. The volunteer organization prides itself on supporting causes that benefit everyone in the community, and community parks such as Bryn Mawr and Kent Gardens have benefitted from the organization's generous contributions.

MCF's generous support through the Fairfax County Park Foundation dates to 2004, when Clemjyontri Park's planning and construction was just beginning. It provided one of its largest grants ever to fund the park's fitness quadrant. Later, the organization provided funding for the Liberty Swing, a unique piece of equipment that enables children in wheelchairs to enjoy the thrill of a ride on a swing. The organization's park philanthropy is at the heart of its mission -- to support valuable services that improve the quality of life for the entire community.



Janet Tysse, President,
McLean Community Foundation

The Fairfax County Park Foundation
Eakin Philanthropy Award Recipient

Nancy Wilson



Nancy Wilson is being honored for her support of park trails through the William "Bill" Vesey Memorial Fund, named to honor the life of her late husband. Since 2010, she has personally donated and solicited contributions in excess of \$16,000 to the Park Foundation to be used to care for and maintain county trails, the most-used of all Park Authority amenities. Her husband loved to run along trails in Wakefield Park and ride his bike to Mt. Vernon.

When Bill died in 2010, Nancy wanted to do something positive in his memory. Her mother came up with the idea of supporting Fairfax County parks. Given Bill's passion for fitness and park trails, it seemed a natural fit. When Nancy discovered the trails fund on the Park Foundation's website, she was thrilled because she knew it would mean a lot to Bill. What she didn't know was that the trails fund was new, and as a result of her efforts to promote the fund in her husband's memory, she would help to generate thousands of dollars for Fairfax County trail building, beautification and maintenance. It's another way for Nancy to keep Bill close to her heart.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Special Recognition

Debbie Billodeaux



Just over 20 years ago, a neighbor lady with her little dog, Missy, came knocking on the office door at Frying Pan Farm Park. She was looking for a place for hobby musicians to come together and play music in a casual setting. The porch of the newly restored Country Store seemed like the perfect space, and that kind of gathering was traditional in the time period the park preserves.

Just a few weeks later, the Frying Pan Bluegrass Jam became a reality with a handful of musicians strumming away on guitar, banjo, fiddle, base or Dobro, bringing this old style of music and community gathering to life. Depending on the season, the group played inside or outside the store for their once-a-month Sunday Jam. After a year or two, things really started to pick up and more and more folks came to play and to listen. A second Sunday Jam was added by the fourth year, and some days there were 40 or more musicians. The players and singers would break up into smaller groups based on their instrument, skill and comfort level. They eventually outgrew performing at the store and now pick-and-strum at different locations around the park depending on what space is available.

Debbie Billodeaux is the neighbor lady who got things started. Her simple request, paired with her wonderful organizational and people skills, created a whole new way for visitors to enjoy Frying Pan Farm Park. With about 50 Jams a year over 20 years with an estimated average of 20 musicians per jam, this gives us a conservative estimated attendance of just over 20,000. That doesn't include the visitors of all ages who sit a spell and listen in.

Since 1998, Billodeaux has worked as a volunteer promoting and organizing the Bluegrass Jam. Her wonderful idea, hard work and dedication have been an amazing gift to the thousands of musicians and audience members who have enjoyed the Frying Pan Jam.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award Student Honoree

Olivia Lamm



Olivia Lamm is one of Sully Historic Site's most reliable youth volunteers and goes above and beyond the call of duty. A volunteer since she was 14 years old, she has assisted with summer camps, Historic All Hallows Eve and Candlelight Tours. She works hard as a member of the Special Events team, as well as a camp counselor and role model. Enthusiastic, dependable and dedicated, Lamm's sunny personality is infectious. She enjoys working with children of all ages. Her love of history and volunteering is contagious and shows when she assists in training new youth volunteers. She is involved in almost every aspect of Sully's mission excellence.

Lamm instructs children and adults about 19th century schools,

slave life and open hearth cooking during outreach programs. She can be called at the last minute to help with summer camps and special events and even dress in period costume. Behind the scenes, she assists with office tasks by preparing handouts for the park, learning centers and special programs. Because of the knowledge of history she has acquired while volunteering at Sully, she can help with a variety of programs, including the scout program Cast Iron Chef, Dairy Days and the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Interpreting the importance of preserving the past and the importance of Sully, Lamm helps ensure that the younger generation appreciates the past and will help provide for its future.

About the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards

In 1988, the Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established in recognition of the contributions of Ms. Ellamae Doyle, Chairman for three years, and a longtime member of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. During her tenure, the Park Authority increased its land holdings, programs and facilities, opened new RECenters, and created new parks throughout the community. Ms. Doyle was also instrumental in the protection of natural and cultural resources.

Outstanding Volunteers

Jane Anzilotti

Vienna, VA • Volunteer at Oak Marr RECenter for 1.5 years
Landscaping and Fitness Room Attendant

Jane Anzilotti is the driving force behind the landscaping team at Oak Marr RECenter. For the past one and a-half years, as well as ensuring that the Fitness Room is always clean and welcoming for customers, she has been making the site beautiful. A member of the landscaping team, Anzilotti does not shy away from getting muddy when beautifying Oak Marr's gardens. She has often worked in the rain in order to keep the gardens weed-free. Her diligence is commendable, but what is most impressive is that she manages to always answer customer questions and listen to their stories while on the job.

Anzilotti's influence extends beyond the Oak Marr RECenter, as she also spends time volunteering at Ronald McDonald House and through her children's' extracurricular activities. Her many passions and interests, from her 11 years of teaching experience to her passion for baseball, make Anzilotti a well-rounded and valued volunteer at Oak Marr RECenter.



Outstanding Volunteers

Pauline Baldwin

Alexandria, VA • Volunteer at Mount Vernon RECenter for 4 years
Landscaper Partner of Weed Warrior Team

Pauline Baldwin has dedicated her time to the Mount Vernon RECenter for the past four years, dependably working at the center up to two times per week. She comes to volunteer with a positive attitude, willing to work in all conditions and weather. With her out-of-pocket plant purchases for the center, willingness and initiative, Baldwin is a valuable volunteer at the Mount Vernon RECenter.

Baldwin worked with her co-volunteer, Irina Mikhaylov, to remove perennials from the gardens so they would not be part of a major upcoming excavation. She works to make the outside of Mount Vernon beautiful, much to the appreciation of visitors at Mount Vernon RECenter.



About the Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Awards

Volunteers play an integral role in the Park Authority's ability to meet the needs of our customers and to maintain its stature nationwide as an outstanding park system. Volunteers bring passion to their work and are key to helping us meet agency mission goals, providing recreational opportunities, creating opportunities for healthy activities and lifestyles and protecting our natural and cultural resources. Each year, thousands of individuals give of their time and talent!

Outstanding Volunteers

Ellie Barnes

Clifton, VA • Volunteer at Twin Lakes Golf Course for 10 years
Tee Coordinator



Since 2009, Ellie Barnes has volunteered at Twin Lake Golf Course, bringing a positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile. Those qualities make her a stand-out. Consistently one of the top performing volunteers, Barnes handles golfers with great courtesy and helpfulness while managing her responsibilities in maintaining tee-off times and ensuring that the schedule is followed. Not only is she helpful to individuals, she is a team player, and her coworkers enjoy her enthusiasm and positive attitude toward her volunteer duties.

Reliable and knowledgeable about golf, Barnes brings valued expertise to her position as Tee Coordinator. She is willing to share her expertise and, in her latest position, has excelled in providing service to golfers and managing difficult situations tactfully. Barnes also is willing to pick up last-minute volunteer shifts and has dedicated immeasurable time and energy to making the Twin Lakes Golf Course a successful establishment.

Outstanding Volunteers

Sally Berman

Springfield, VA • Volunteer at South Run RECenter for 6 years
Landscape Volunteer



Sally Berman has made a noticeable and appreciated impact at South Run RECenter for the past six years. Beginning as a landscape volunteer in March 2012, she quickly took on the challenges of beautifying the exterior of South Run RECenter, doing the work of four and generously donating her time and portions of her own garden to the RECenter. Berman has since established several new gardens and provided for their maintenance, coordinating and supervising groups of volunteers.

When Berman realized how much more could be done to improve South Run, she recruited kids from the local high school to assist in her project. Her “kids” allowed her to rapidly expand the scope of her projects, immensely improving the landscape of South Run. Berman is determined, enthusiastic and a wonderful volunteer, and she has made a monumental difference at South Run RECenter.

Outstanding Volunteers

Marilyn Voigt

Herndon, VA • Volunteer at Sully Historic Site for 20 years
Volunteer at Sully Historic Site



Enthusiastic, dependable and flexible, Marilyn Voigt is a valued Tour Docent, Living History Interpreter, Program Leader and Craftswoman at Sully Historic Site. Over the past 20 years, she has given her time and abilities to the Historic Site, sewing beautiful doll clothing to be sold in the store, leading children in 18th century themed programs, and expanding her historical knowledge.

Voigt conducts tours throughout the year and is flexible in changing the theme of her tour to fit the audience and setting. A member of the Sully Stitchers, she mends interpretive clothing and researches clothing to add to Sully's collection for program use. Her love of history is inspiring, and her excitement and knowledge adds to the community at Sully that delights visitors and makes others want to volunteer as well. As the face for Sully Historic Site in the RSVP—Volunteer Fairfax podcast, Voigt has a true passion for spreading her love of history to others.

Outstanding Volunteers

Meg Whelan

Alexandria, VA • Volunteer at South Run RECenter for 10 years
Adapted Aquatics Volunteer



Meg Whelan has served as an Adapted Aquatics Volunteer at South Run RECenter for the past 10 years. Each weekend, she jumps into the pool to help people of all ages with disabilities learn water safety and swimming skills. A dedicated volunteer who has logged more than 1,050 hours, Whelan has stepped up to work with some of South Run RECenter's most challenging swimmers, bringing her commendable patience and outstanding sense of humor.

Whelan's positive and encouraging attitude is noticeable in her ability to impart her joy of swimming to someone who cried at their first lesson and transform them into someone who is excited to swim and has as much fun as she does in the water. Quick to volunteer her help when needed, and a wonderful mentor, Whelan has generously shared her time and talents and is a true gift to the adapted aquatics program.

Outstanding Volunteers

Pat Shoop

Arlington, VA • Volunteer at Green Spring Gardens Historic House for 12 years
Historic House Tea Host and Historic Programs Volunteer



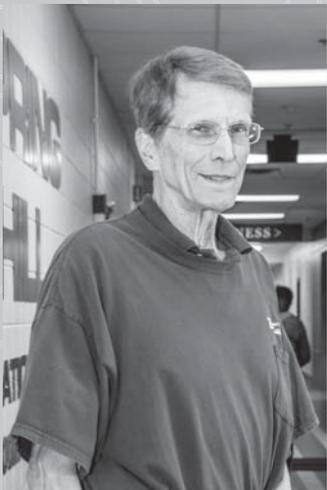
Time and time again, Pat Shoop has proven to be a dedicated, proactive, and invaluable volunteer at the Historic House. Over the past 12 years, she has served as a regular tea host for popular afternoon tea programs, never hesitated to step up on a short notice, and brought poise, artistry and expertise to the program. Shoop has streamlined Historic House events, bringing innovative ideas, such as her color-coded plating system to eliminate server error, and assisting in the time-consuming task of assembling favor bags for the annual Mother's Day tea.

Beyond the Historic House, Shoop took on the role of artistic director to the volunteer team producing holiday ornaments for sale in the Horticulture Center shop, donating hours of her time to this important process. A delightful worker and team player, Shoop is valued not only by visitors but by her fellow volunteers and staff.

Outstanding Volunteers

Tony Taylor

Arlington, VA • Volunteer at Spring Hill RECenter for 3 years
Front Desk Volunteer



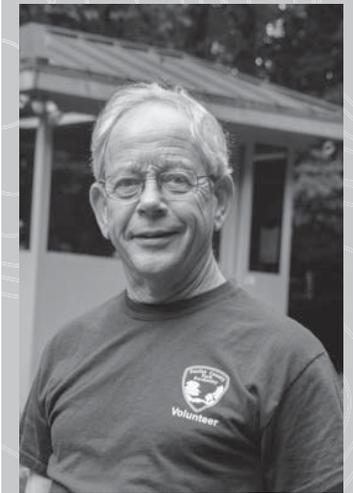
Tony Taylor's quality character and expertise have led him to become an integral team member, staff ambassador and mentor on the Spring Hill RECenter team. As a Front Desk Volunteer, Taylor's politeness and smile can charm and diffuse even the most contentious of customers. His ability to adapt and understand new programs and processes has made him invaluable to the flow of operations to customers and staff.

Taylor's commitment to living life to the fullest has followed him throughout his entire life. With a 30-year career in the U.S. Air Force, and experience advising members of Congress on aviation and energy members, he has become the "go-to guy" for any Special Event decorations that require a head for heights.

Outstanding Volunteers

Tom Blackburn

McLean, VA • Volunteer at Riverbend Park for 3 years
Assistant Program Director Lead



For the past three years, Tom Blackburn has brought his passion for nature to Riverbend Park programs, beginning with the kayaking program and expanding to countless other programs, as well as the Astronomy Festival and Virginia Indian Festival. His impact on the Riverbend community is noticeable, and last year, Blackburn became a Certified Interpretive Guide to enhance his role as Assistant Program leader.

No matter the task, Blackburn is always willing to help. From spreading his love of wildlife to young children through humor and enthusiasm to leading programs at Riverbend, his dedication and commitment fosters an appreciation for nature that furthers Riverbend's preservation and education goals.

Outstanding Volunteers

Mary Boyer

Fairfax, VA • Volunteer at Royal Lake Park for 2 years
Invasive Management Area Site Leader



Mary Boyer has served as a volunteer in the Resource Management Division and Invasive Management Area of Royal Lake Park for two years. As a volunteer, she works tirelessly to restore Royal Lake Park's habitat, contributing hundreds of hours to removing invasive species, planting species that will benefit the local wildlife, instilling a passion for conservation in young volunteers, and taking charge of projects focused on managing invasive species.

In March, Boyer held her first native planting workday with volunteers, planting 50 native plants on a hill in danger of erosion. She has continued her dedication to this endeavor, making several trips to water the plants to ensure their survival. Boyer's impact extends beyond Royal Lake Park to all of Fairfax County. The Invasive Management Area program has nearly 60 habitat restoration sites across the county, and Boyer's hard work and perseverance have contributed greatly to this program.

Outstanding Volunteers
Anthony Consumano

Fairfax, VA • Volunteer at Cub Run RECenter for 14 months
Park Volunteer Team Leader



In Anthony Consumano's short time with Cub Run RECenter, he has already made his mark. His dedication to the outdoors is evident in the initiative he takes to preserve Fairfax County's natural beauty. When Consumano noticed the amount of trash in London Town while out on a hike, he decided to devote his energy to cleaning up the trails. This small gesture bloomed into his current love of volunteer service to the parks.

At Cub Run, Consumano has worked tirelessly to increase the online presence of the facility, create a Park Volunteer Team, lead programs and classes, and assist with raising money for trails through the Park Foundation. His upbeat attitude and boundless energy has been an immense help at the Cub Run RECenter and across the Park Authority.

Outstanding Volunteers
Shannon Dart

Springfield, VA • Volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park for 5 years
Volunteer on Duty



Shannon Dart has volunteered at Huntley Meadows Park for five years, contributing about 25 hours a month to the park along with volunteering ventures at the Smithsonian, CERT and her church. Dart is both a seen and unseen hero of Huntley Meadows. Whether she is picking up a last-minute shift to support her volunteers, tackling a massive data entry project to support naturalists' research, teaching young children about birds and flight, or welcoming visitors into the park, she tackles any task with the utmost integrity and humility.

An invaluable member of Huntley Meadows' volunteer team, Dart has contributed to countless projects. With her consistent support of 250 service hours this year and assistance in citizen science projects, she has made a substantial impact on the community.

Outstanding Volunteers
Irina Mikhaylov

Alexandria, VA • Volunteer at Mount Vernon RECenter for 4 years
Landscaper partner of Weed Warrior Team



Irina Mikhaylov has served as a volunteer at Mount Vernon RECenter for the past four years, and her experience and passion for gardening are evident in her work and volunteer duties. As a member of the "Weed Warriors" team, she works well with other outdoor volunteers and is always willing to share her gardening tips with various visitors.

When Mikhaylov learned about the Mount Vernon RECenter renovations slated for 2019, she and fellow volunteer, Pauline Baldwin, took the initiative to extract the perennials so they would not be affected by the renovation. This enterprising attitude is what makes Mikhaylov a valuable volunteer, and it is evident that visitors appreciate her efforts in keeping this RECenter beautiful.

Outstanding Volunteers
Kathy Scheimer

Vienna, VA • Volunteer at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site for 4 years
Teaching Docent



For the past four years, Kathy Scheimer has been a dedicated volunteer at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site during field trip season. After retiring from her position as a high school teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools, Scheimer stumbled upon the Colvin Run Mill Historic Site volunteer opportunity and has been a valuable asset ever since.

Dependable, and an exceptionally skilled interpreter, Scheimer has been present every Tuesday for field trips, enabling Colvin Run Mill to continue to work at its maximum level of output for field trips throughout the school year. She can be counted on to be on site and ready to face a crowd of students, chaperones, teachers and whatever curveballs she is thrown on any given field trip day.

Outstanding Volunteers

Thomas Lopez and Susy Manca

Centreville, VA • Volunteer at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park for 7 years
Animal Care and Garden Volunteers



Thomas Lopez and Susy Manca began volunteering seven years ago and have become dedicated and valued volunteers at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Every Saturday, Lopez serves as an animal caretaker while his mother gardens. Often, the two will take time to walk through the park after completing their volunteer duties, evidence of their love and passion for the park.

The two also volunteer for nearly all of the park's special events. It goes without saying that their work is an expression of their passion for the park through events like Centreville Day and the House of Reptiles. These two individuals are dependable, energetic, and always excited to share the beauty and marvels of Ellanor C. Lawrence Park with the public.

Outstanding Volunteers

Bill Masker

Springfield, VA • Volunteer at Audrey Moore RECenter for 10 years
Front Desk and Swim Program Volunteer



Bill Masker has volunteered at the Audrey Moore RECenter for the past 10 years, offering sage advice and going above the call of duty to support both volunteers and customers. A staple at the front desk, he mentors new volunteers. He offers helpful advice to all. Masker also assists in organizing activities and coaching participants in the Adapted Swim Program.

Respected by his peers, he has stepped in several times to substitute in classes on short notice. With his passion for storytelling and engaging personality, fellow volunteers report that he makes slow shifts pass more quickly. An excellent example of a model volunteer, and an even better person, Masker is a true standout among Audrey Moore RECenter volunteers.

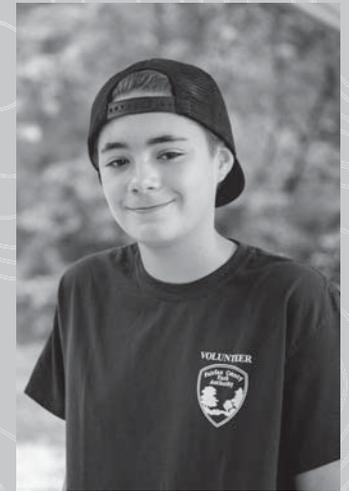
Outstanding Volunteers

Aidan DiBona

Fairfax Station, VA • Volunteer at Hidden Pond Nature Center for 3 years
Volunteer at the Nature Center

Aidan DiBona has volunteered at Hidden Pond Nature Center for the past three years, and his outgoing personality and passion for the environment work well with the summer campers. A former attendee of Hidden Pond's summer camps, DiBona is a longtime supporter of the park and is a great fit at the nature center. He helps out at campfires, Sunday birthday parties and weekend Animal Care, and he is a camp helper.

DiBona consistently tackles challenges, such as leading a large group with only one other volunteer, without complaint. Whenever a program needs extra help, he is always there with a sunny smile to save the day. Personable, and fun to be around, DiBona is a crowd favorite at birthday parties and summer camps and helps to create a warm environment at Hidden Pond Nature Center.



Outstanding Volunteers

Bob Dinse

Annandale, VA • Volunteer at Hidden Oaks Nature Center for 8.5 years
Trail Manager

Bob Dinse has served as a volunteer and Trail Manager at Hidden Oaks Nature Center for the past eight years, maintaining the trails and ensuring they remain safe and attractive for all visitors. Dinse is a first responder in any weather-related crisis, hand-sawing and repurposing smaller downed trees, assisting with after-storm cleanup, and developing a fair-weather crossing when a bridge was lost.

As a leader in the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) program, Dinse leads groups of seventh graders with hands-on stewardship projects. He led over 300 children in other environmental stewardship projects as well. His hard work is key to making Hidden Oaks' trails, gardens, and streams safe for all to visit. He is an invaluable member of the team who is not afraid to get his hands dirty and is always willing to lend a hand wherever needed.



Outstanding Volunteers
Bob & Barbara Gitschier

Centreville, VA · Volunteers at Fryng Pan Farm Park
Length of Service: 2 years · Volunteer Guides



Bob and Barbara Gitschier have served for two years as guides for small group and individual tours at the historic Kidwell Farmhouse of Fryng Pan Farm Park. Together, they have contributed over 119 hours of service, dedicating themselves weekly from mid-March to November and going above and beyond the duties of a standard volunteer, volunteering for special events including Spring Farm Day, the 4-H Fair and Carnival, and Fall Harvest Days.

The Gitscheirs have a clear passion for their volunteer work. The duo enjoys sharing new information with other docents and cultivates a uniquely inviting atmosphere that makes visitors feel at home in the park.

Outstanding Volunteers
Jenny Grimsley

Springfield, VA · Volunteer at Providence RECenter for 5 years
Instructor Assistant, Front Desk Associate, General Assistant



An integral part of the Providence RECenter team, Jenny Grimsley has generously served as a volunteer in various roles for the past five years, always bringing her positive attitude and strong work ethic to any task she does. She volunteers weekly in the adapted exercise class, has dedicated time and energy to replenishing the Providence Bookshare's supply of books, and has always been willing and able to lend a helping hand wherever needed.

Grimsley's can-do attitude is contagious and spreads to her fellow volunteers, staff members, and patrons. Her genuine interest in others and her sincerity make Grimsley an outstanding person and excellent human being.

Outstanding Volunteers
Marcia Guzman

Alexandria, VA · Volunteer at Lee District RECenter for 2 years
Front Desk Associate



In our diverse community, a warm welcome in any language is always important. Marcia Guzman has volunteered at the Lee District RECenter for almost three years, greeting the public as a Front Desk Associate and informing visitors about site rules and programs. Enthusiastic, organized and always willing to help, Guzman goes above and beyond her regular front desk duties. She assists the Spanish community by providing information about passes, classes and programs in Spanish, and she enjoys helping others.

A consistent supporter of Lee District staff and a dedicated team member, Voigt is a valuable volunteer.

Outstanding Volunteers
Frank Lewis

Springfield, VA · Volunteer at James Lee Community Center for 3 years
Archaeology Lab Assistant, Archaeology Field Assistant



For the past three years, Frank Lewis has generously donated time and energy to the County Archaeological Research Team (CART), modeling dedication, dependability and a light-hearted nature in his efforts to assist staff with the processing, identification, excavation and preservation of artifacts. With his versatile skills and playful jokes, Lewis always shows up with a smile and instantly brightens the day of every person he encounters.

Fairfax County's archaeological resources have benefited greatly from Lewis' volunteer service. Recently, he helped CART excavate and document a large cellar feature, which involved digging, sifting, and water screening over 600 cubic feet of dirt. Lewis was instrumental in this project. His attitude and commitment to preservation make him a wonderful member of the archaeological team.