



Friends of Sligo Creek

Newsletter October 2016



Ellen X. Silverberg photo

Contents

Fall Sweep Complete

Bird Outing Oct 15

Festival del Rio Anacostia

New Trail Guide to Sligo

Need to Reach Us?

Fall "Sweep" Cleans the Creek

Welcome rains finally ended the long drought in the Sligo Creek watershed, but not until we completed each day of our Fall Sweep the Creek September 24 and 25.

A whopping 444 volunteers collected no fewer than 246 bags of trash, 87 bags of recycling, and a few bags of



Michele Good (above) and Alison Smith excavated this vacuum cleaner between Wayne and Colesville. (A. Smith photo)

invasive plants. We also pulled out far too many mattresses (at least six), with more left for a later effort. Also removed were a metal signpost, a raccoon skull, a serrated knife, bicycle helmets, a suitcase, and one tenaciously embedded vacuum cleaner (see left).

While any trash in the creek is too much, we noticed a slight decline in the amount this fall, possibly due to long periods without the rain that usually washes it into the creek.

We happily added more cleanup locations to our Sweep, as volunteers continue to step forward with the time and energy to lead. Joining the list this fall were Evans Parkway Park (with the help of GreenWheaton) and the grounds of Long Branch Pool and Community Center (thanks to a local neighborhood group).

We gladly welcomed back return groups and some new ones, too:

- Cub Scout Packs 275, 249, and 478
- The Difference Makers Club from Takoma Park Middle School
- Daisy Troop 34003
- Girl Scout Troops 1921, 628, and 3816
- Glen Haven Elementary School PTA

Sweep the Creek is a collaborative effort made possible by many, including our Sweep section leaders, those who work at the tables, our banners printers, the FOSC Outreach Team and kiosk marketers, photographers, webmaster, and, of course, our volunteer Sweepers. Thank you to everyone!



Dan Goehring (in blue) and the Difference Makers between Maple and Piney Branch

A special thanks to Montgomery Parks, which provides a mighty supply of gloves and bags, picks up hundreds of trash bags, helps



Two boys devised a clever arm for their trash bag. (Montgomery Parks photo)

Sweep the Creek Coordinator

advertise the event, takes photos, and serves as our sponsoring organization for awarding Student Service Learning hours. How about those precious kids' gloves for ages 3-6? We hear people would like to keep 'em coming, Parks, if possible!

While we can check off another successful Sweep the Creek thanks to all who contributed, we are not retiring our efforts. Check our website early next year for the dates of our 2017 Sweep the Creek events and save those spring and fall dates.

Patton Stephens
Friends of Sligo Creek

Look for Birds Oct 15

Want to learn more about the birds that return to Sligo for the winter? Or those that stay here year-round? Then join our bird outing on Saturday, October 15, 8-9:30 am, at the Forest Glen wetland just north of the Beltway.

Our leader will be David Blockstein, veteran birder, professional ornithologist, and Sligo resident.

The Forest Glen wetland (constructed by Montgomery Parks in the 1990s) offers a variety of habitats that are attractive to birds -- open water, pond edges, floodplain woodland, upland trees, and open fields -- giving us plenty of good opportunities to watch and listen for birds.

Some birds should have already arrived in Sligo from their breeding ranges to the west and north: Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Dark-eyed Junco,

Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow.

Many of our year-round residents should be around, such as Mallard, Wood Duck, Canada Goose, Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, American Crow, Common Grackle, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, Cedar Waxwing, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, American Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow,

Meet at the new playground about 300 feet north of Forest Glen Road, on the west side of the hiker-biker trail near the foot-bridge crossing the ponds. A few parking spots are available in the nearby lot on the Parkway.

Another lot is west of the Park on Dameron Drive. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet (ironphoenix.org photo)

The outing proceeds in a light rain, but is cancelled in a downpour or with lightning. For more information, email natural.history@fosc.org.

Festival del Rio Oct. 15

Friends of Sligo Creek is one of many organizations joining together to present the first ever "Festival del Rio Anacostia" on Saturday, October 15, from 11-4.

It takes place at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd in Bladensburg. This environmental/cultural festival is designed to connect the Latino community with the Anacostia River and its restoration.



*Nature rides on a pontoon boat will be part of the Festival del Rio Anacostia.
(anacostia.net photo)*

Activities will include boat rides, fishing, rowing demonstrations, prize giveaways, live fish and birds demo, nature walks, hands-on activities, arts and crafts, and homeowner incentive programs.

Workshops will be held on environmental education, water quality testing, drinking water, and health services. Sponsors include CHISPA, M-NCPPC, Anacostia Watershed Society, Anacostia Riverkeeper, Friends of Sligo Creek, and Friends of Dueling Creek.

We are working to expand our organizational reach and service to all the people in our watershed, which includes many folks for whom Spanish is their first language. In that effort, we started a Latino Outreach Committee and additional members are very much welcome.

This committee met with an Anacostia-wide Latino outreach group a few months ago. Out of that meeting was created the Festival del Rio Anacostia.

Buses will run from Langley Park to the Waterfront. FOSC will be on hand with our little magnet fishing box that's such a magical draw to youngsters. Join us there from 11-4.

For more information, contact president@fosc.org.
Bienvenidos a todos!

-- Kit Gage, president

New Sligo Trail Guide Now Online

Long-time board member and past-president Bruce Sidwell has created a section-by-section trail guide to Sligo Creek Park, based on his long

experience in promoting the ecological health of our watershed.

Access the guide on our website [here](#) or go to the "maps" page in the "About Sligo" tab on the home page, fosc.org. Each of the ten sections it describes is accompanied by a handy topographic map.

The guide helps users better appreciate the natural and historic features of the park and adjacent areas. When more information is available on our website about any one location, a convenient link in the text takes the reader to it.

The guide follows Sligo Creek from its headwaters at Channing Drive to its confluence with the Northwest Branch after flowing better than eight miles. One theme of the new trail guide is that, to fully appreciate the park, one needs to go slowly, look closely, carry a couple of plant and animal field guides, and wear sensible footwear. If you have comments on the guide, please send them to naturalhistory@fosc.org.



*Sligo Creek trail in September 2016
(Montgomery Parks photo)*

"I am deeply grateful to Clair Garman and other members of the Friends of Sligo Creek," notes Bruce, "for their help with the guide and maps. However, do not blame FOSC or any part of the Montgomery County government for any errors, omissions, bad advice, or other quibbles you may have with the guide. I take all responsibility."

Thanks to Bruce for this great new guide to our park!

Need to Reach Us?

President (Kit Gage): president@fosc.org

Invasive Plants (Jim Anderson): invasives@fosc.org

Litter (Patton Stephens): litter@fosc.org

Advocacy (Bruce Sidwell): advocacy@fosc.org

Natural History (Michael Wilpers): naturalhistory@fosc.org

Stormwater (Elaine Lamirande): stormwater@fosc.org

Water Quality (Pat Ratkowski): waterquality@fosc.org

Outreach (Sarah Jane Marcus): outreach@fosc.org

Treasurer (Dee Clarkin; asstnt treasurer Sherrill Goggin): treasurer@fosc.org

Newsletter Editor (Michael Wilpers): editor@fosc.org



Find us on Facebook!



Friends of Sligo Creek is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed.