



# Friends of Sligo Creek

Newsletter December 2016



*Ellen X. Silverberg photo*

## Contents

New FOSC President Corinne Lackner Stephens

Clair Garman Steps Down

Support Friends of Sligo

Take Our 60-Second Website User Survey

A Year of Nature Sightings

Need to Reach Us?

## **Corinne Lackner Stephens Elected Next FOSC President**



"When I first moved to Takoma Park ten years ago," says Corinne Lackner Stephens, "I knew that I wanted to help to protect Sligo Creek and its native wildlife. Friends of Sligo Creek immediately welcomed me and I met lots of new friends through the stormwater and water quality committees."

On January 1, Corinne becomes the seventh president of Friends of Sligo Creek, after serving as a board member and chair of the Water Quality Committee and volunteering in a variety of projects.

In her professional life, Corinne is the manager of business partnerships at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Before joining the Alliance in 2015, Corinne worked for the Wildlife

Habitat Council in Silver Spring and Defenders of Wildlife in Washington, DC.

She holds a master's degree in animals and public policy from Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. She received her bachelor's degree in animal science, with a minor in environmental policy, from Cook College at Rutgers University.

"Through the years, I have participated in and helped lead numerous FOSC events," Corinne notes, "including tree plantings, non-native invasive plant removals, night programs, Sweep the Creeks, and a water quality snapshot day.

"I was honored to be nominated to the Board of Directors three years ago and am thrilled to represent you all as the next FOSC President. Thank you for entrusting me with our beloved park," she says. "I look forward to working with you to protect and improve the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park!"

Corinne lives in Silver Spring with her family and a menagerie of pets. She was preceded as president by Sally Gagne (2002-2004), Jim Baird and Ann Hoffnar (co-presidents, 2004-2006), Bruce Sidwell (2006-2010), Michael Wilpers (2010-2014), and Kit Gage (2014-2016).

You can email Corinne any time at [president@fosc.org](mailto:president@fosc.org).

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## **Webmaster Clair Garman Steps Down After 13 Years of Service**



*Clair assembling our deer enclosure in the Kemp Mill area in 2003 as part of a team (Sally Gagne photo)*

Clair Garman has built many things for Friends of Sligo Creek:

- \* Our first deer enclosure in the Kemp Mill woods in 2003
- \* The original set of nine plain-wood sign boxes, erected in 2005 for posting announcements and information in the Park (He also repaired them until they were replaced by the current set in 2012.)
- \* A giant picture frame for remounting the FOSC mural at Sligo Creek Elementary School in 2005

\* Most especially, our tremendous website, with its abundance of beautiful photographs, nature sightings, water-

quality data, action logs, achievement lists, plant and animal inventories, and a bounty of maps. These maps show Sligo's history, land use, impervious cover, boundaries, and water-quality monitoring sites, among many other themes.

After thirteen years of building and maintaining the website, Clair has stepped down, leaving a rich resource that can be endlessly mined for insight and inspiration about Sligo's watershed.

"Clair was always amazingly responsive to requests for creating new sections on our website and then populating them with stuff," noted past-president Bruce Sidwell.

"His interest in maps is intense, and there are now 27 maps of Sligo on the website -- actually many more, since some are collections of maps (such as the ten interactive maps that make up the Sligo Creek trail guide).

"He has always been willing to meet anybody for a tramp in the park, or to look at one spot," says Bruce. "In our time, Clair and I covered pretty-near every square foot of the park."



*Jane Barrett and Clair with a just-completed sign box in 2005*



*Clair (left) and the frame he built for this Sligo poster installed at Sligo Elementary School in 2005 after three years on display at the construction site for the Takoma Park Community Center. Mural photo by Stan Barough and screenprinting by Marty Ittner*

Your newsletter editor owes a special debt of gratitude to Clair for working on so many plant and animal inventories, including daunting spreadsheets of wildflowers and native bees in the Pepco meadow. He also joined in our first meeting with the Pepco forester to help make the argument about reducing the mowing schedule at Sligo.

All of the Friends of Sligo Creek thank Clair for his 15 years of service and, especially, for a website that is probably unparalleled among watershed groups for its scope, depth, and value.

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## Support Friends of Sligo Creek in Your Year-End Giving

What better gift to give this year than a donation, in the name of a loved one, to the Friends of Sligo Creek? Or perhaps you'd rather donate simply as a part of your annual year-end giving?

Either way, it's easy to make a contribution. You can donate online from the lower left-hand corner of our website homepage ([home page](#)) or by simply clicking [donate here](#). If a check is your preference, mail it to Friends of Sligo Creek, PO Box 11572, Takoma Park, MD 20913.



*Spicebush along Wheaton Branch in late fall 2016 (Wilpers photo)*

Your gift this year will be especially helpful as we invest in a new content management system for our website, which, among many other things, will make all the site's rich resources and mechanisms for reporting easier to use on hand-held devices.

Give the gift of local nature and help promote the ecological health of our beloved park and watershed this holiday season!

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## **Please Take Our 60-Second Website User Survey**

To help us evaluate our current website and plan for improvements, please take the simple four-question survey at this [link](#).

The survey will remain open until January 31, and the results will be reported in an upcoming newsletter.

Your answers will inform our efforts to make the site as useful as possible as we move all its great resources to a new platform. One advantage of the new content management system will be its greater compatibility with hand-held devices, as well as improved network security.

If you have any questions, email [outreach@fosc.org](mailto:outreach@fosc.org).

We look forward to hearing how you use the Friends of Sligo Creek website!

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# A Year of Nature Sightings in Sligo

Nature watchers across the Sligo Creek watershed submitted 86 sightings to our website's popular "Sightings" page in 2016. They included mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, flowering plants, mushrooms, and lichens.

We know that students in at least one of our local schools (Oak View Elementary) follow the Sightings page, so our reports have the potential to help excite the next generation of naturalists.

Here are but a few of the photographs included in this year's sightings. To see them all, go to [Sightings page](#). Keep your reports coming in 2017!



*Two of about 100 Bloodroot seen by Laura Mol along Long Branch between the library and community center March 24*



*Eastern Box Turtle reported by Doug Stephens on July 13 just below Colesville Road*



*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron photographed by Bob Cantor just inside the Beltway on May 25*



*Six-year-old Noah Shinker with the White Turtlehead he discovered at the Sligo wetlands above Forest Glen Rd in October*

*Green Frog noticed by Julie Mangin on May 25 in the Forest Glen wetland*



*Turkey-tail mushroom growing on cut Chinese pear in Pepco meadow in June (Wilpers photo)*



*Great Egret photographed in August at the Wheaton Branch stormwater ponds by Bob Cantor*



*Red Fox caught by Jim Anderson's motion-sensitive night camera near Dale Neighborhood Park in October*

# Need to Reach Us?

President (Kit Gage): [president@fosc.org](mailto:president@fosc.org)

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

Litter (Patton Stephens): [litter@fosc.org](mailto:litter@fosc.org)

Advocacy (Bruce Sidwell): [advocacy@fosc.org](mailto:advocacy@fosc.org)

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

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*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.*