



Friends of Sligo Creek

Newsletter September 2020



Ellen X. Silverberg photo

Contents

Family Zoom Event on Fall Nature

Alternative Sweep the Creek

Sept. 10 Storm Flooding

Photographer Takes Sligo National

Need to Reach Us?

Family Zoom Event Sept. 22 on Nature in Fall

We're all walking and biking and scootering in the park, but did you know how many different kinds of leaves and nuts and other natural things you can find if you look carefully?



Naturalist Frank Boyle leads a fall family outing in Sligo.

hickories, beeches, and other trees are already falling all over the place. There are even some wildflowers still blooming!

Let's see how many things we can find of different types, shapes, sizes, and colors. We'll give you some ideas of what to look for. And you can share what you've already found on this Zoom get-together!

Our leader will be Kit Gage, who is a Master Watershed Steward and a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional -- and she loves to walk in the park!

To join the event, use this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89171041212>. The meeting ID is 891 7104 1212. If you have trouble joining the event that night, email editor@fosc.org or text (301) 204-9731 for help.

For questions or more information, contact Kit at advocacy@fosc.org.

Learn more and get excited by joining our Zoom event, "Surprises in the Park," on Tuesday, September 22, from 5:00-6:30 pm.

Family members are welcome to get some ideas about what can be found in Sligo Creek Park at this time of year.

As autumn begins, the leaves will turn a bunch of different colors. They will fall from their branches so you can see them up close on the ground. Nuts and seeds from oaks,



Acorn caps found in Sligo in late October a few years ago (Wilpers photos)

Alternative "Sweep the Creek" Starts Sept. 26



A volunteer removes trash from Sligo in fall 2016.

In place of our two-day Fall "Sweep the Creek," we've set aside a two-week period when you're encouraged to head into the Park as individuals and families to help remove trash. Please send us photos of your work so we can celebrate all the effort on our website and social media and in our newsletter.

The alternative "Sweep" begins on Saturday, September 26, which is National Public Lands Day, and runs through Sunday, October 11.

National Public Lands Day was established in 1994 and is traditionally the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. It celebrates the connection between people and green spaces in their community, inspires environmental stewardship, and encourages use of open space for education, recreation, and health.

Don't forget to wear masks and social distance from others in the Park. Use your own gloves and trash bags and put bags in Park trash cans or in your own at home. Leave large objects next to Park trash cans.

Send your Sweep photos to webmaster@fosc.org for posting on our new website! For questions or more information, contact info@fosc.org.

Landmark Rains Flood Sligo



Sligo Creek and hiker-biker trail (left) and Parkway (right) just upstream from the Maple Avenue bridge following massive rainstorm on September 10 (Naomi Edelson photo)

An intense rainstorm that hit the Washington area on September 10 dropped as much as 5.5 inches of rain in just three hours in parts of Sligo. The stream gage in Sligo Creek at Maple Avenue rose four feet in one hour and the gage in Northwest Branch at Rt. 29 rose eight feet. Multiple rescues took place along Sligo Creek Parkway at Wayne Avenue.

A narrow corridor of extremely heavy rain dropped the most water on southern Montgomery County and between Alexandria and north-central Prince George's County. The highest total exceeded six inches in Hyattsville. The amount measured at National Airport, 2.88 inches, was a record for the day.

In Sligo Creek, the stream gage at Maple Avenue measured a maximum flow at 18,551 gallons (or 2,480 cubic feet) per second. Former FOSC board member Chris Victoria calculated that this was more than a large tanker truck of water going past every second.

His neighbor, a scientist, measured the total rainfall at 5.5 inches over three hours near the confluence of Sligo and Long Branch. Over the same three hours, the gage at Rolling Terrace Elementary School measured 2.7 inches (according to the WeatherBug app) and Kit Gage measured 3.37 inches near the Park Valley bridge.

Chris points out that even at four inches in three hours, it would rank as a 100-year storm. Since the New Hampshire Avenue bridge was topped (and nearby Hyattsville measured six inches), he feels the 5.5 number is probably reliable, making the storm a 500-year event in those heavy-downfall locations.

By comparison, Hurricane Agnes in 1972 dropped just below five inches of rain at National Airport in five hours and 7.3 inches there over 24 hours. In Wheaton, a total of 11.25 inches fell over a 48-hour period. In the wider DC area, the hurricane killed sixteen people who died after being swept away by raging floodwaters.



The University Blvd. stormwater ponds became one massive lake during the Sept. 10 rainstorm. (Ed Murtaugh photo)



That's a road (Elson St.) leading to Hillwood Manor Park along Sligo between New Hampshire Ave. and the Pepco corridor on Sept. 10. (John Stith photo)

Photographer Julius Kassovic Takes Sligo National

Creative images of Sligo by local photographer Julius Kassovic were on virtual view at multiple galleries this summer, and one of his photographs was chosen for a new

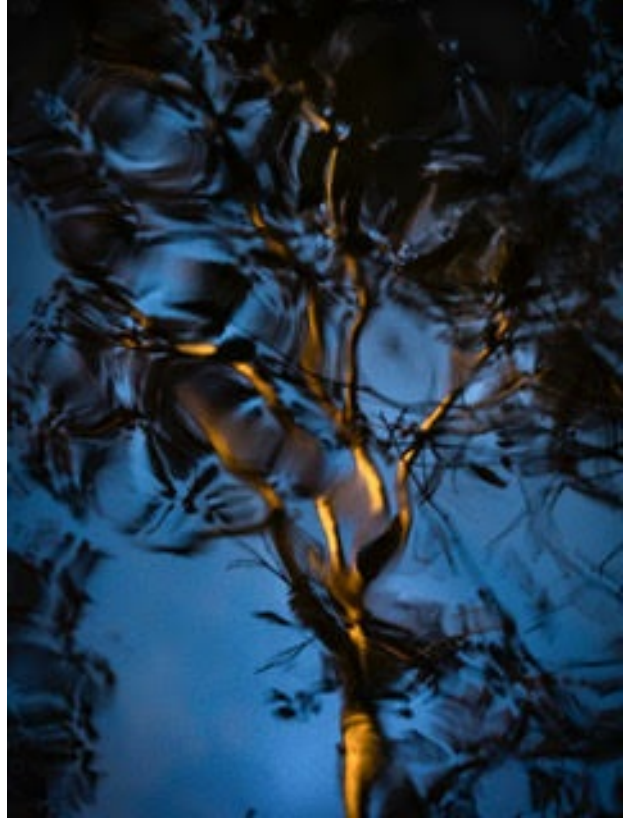
book following an international competition. He has been photographing Sligo Creek intensively since 2005.

Titled *Our Magnificent Planet*, the book was published this month by Lenswork. Julius was among 300 photographers chosen for the publication from submissions worldwide. It was his third success in Lenswork's annual publication competition.

The same publisher selected Sligo photographs by Julius in two previous competitions (in 2016 and 2017) in which only fifty photographers were selected from more than 1,900 competitors. The 2016 book featured six of Julius's images of tree reflections and their 2017 edition showed six of his images of leaves in the creek.

His exhibits of Sligo Creek photos this past summer included two photos in an on-line show at Gallery B (Bethesda), a single framed photograph at the Delaplaine Art Center (Frederick), and four framed photographs at the Auburn Gallery (Los Angeles), in an exhibit focused on reflections. Last February, two of his Sligo photographs were exhibited at the Circle Gallery (Annapolis).

Julius notes, "This was a busier exhibition year than I've had recently. It's fun for me as a photographer, and fun to get Sligo Creek out there." If you would like to see more of his amazing Sligo Creek photos, go his website: www.photojulius.com.



Julius's photograph titled "Illumine" is an evening shot taken on the creek between Piney Branch Rd. and the Park Valley bridge.



Julius' photograph titled "Verdant" shows an American Beech leaf just downstream from Piney Branch Road.

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We rely on your donations in order to monitor, measure, report, plan, and advocate for the Creek and its plant and animal residents.

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Your support is greatly appreciated!

Need to Reach Us?

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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.