



Friends of Sligo Creek

Newsletter _ June 2021



Photo by Ellen X. Silverberg

New Treasurer Needed



Our dedicated treasurer, Dee Clarkin, is retiring her green eye shades after six years on the job. We're looking for a new volunteer to fill this crucial position, which provides so much support to us as we advocate for the ecological health of the Sligo Creek watershed.

Dee came to us in 2014 through an appeal like this one our members and email list, and so we're utilizing that same approach here.

As you might expect, the treasurer handles income (grants, donations, sales) and pays bills (speaker fees, insurance, web hosting) and reimbursements to members (for purchasing such things as equipment).

Above: "Am I looking at our next treasurer?"

The treasurer also creates each year's annual budget (with input from each committee) and monitors actual income and expenses against those projections during the course of the year. The FOSC board hears reports from the treasurer at each of its meetings (about six per year).

You can get a full list of the duties of the treasurer, and the skills needed, by emailing president Mike Smith at president@fosc.org. If you're ready to put your hat in the ring, please send your resume (or list of relevant skills and experiences) to Mike at the same address. We want to fill this position as quickly as possible.

We eagerly encourage any of you with a financial bent and background, and a commitment to the FOSC mission, to consider helping us with this indispensable part of our work.

June 19: Solstice Bird Outing

Join Sligo ornithologist David Blockstein and birder Mary Singer to look for late spring and early summer birds on Saturday, June 19, from 8 to 10 am. Beginner and experienced birders alike are encouraged to sign up.

The meeting location will be emailed to the **first 20 people** who RSVP to Ross Campbell at this address: rosscampbell728@gmail.com. The capacity for the outing is 20, so couples count as two and so forth.

The outing will go forward in a sprinkle but will be cancelled in case of steady rain.



*Birders at a previous outing in Sligo
(R. Campbell photo)*

The group will look for birds that arrived in the last two months to nest in Sligo after spending the winter further south, as well as year-round residents. During our last spring bird outing led by David and Mary, we tallied 43 species that were seen or heard.

David Blockstein is a Sligo resident and a long time FOSC member. He is a Senior Adviser with the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences. Mary Singer has lived in the Sligo watershed for twelve years and is a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society. She started birding in the American South and has since taken birding trips to the West Coast, Africa, and Central and South America.

For further information, contact Ross Campbell at rosscampbell728@gmail.com.

Celebrate Pollinators on June 20

Enjoy a fun-filled and informative celebration of National Pollinator Week in downtown Takoma Park on Sunday, June 20, from 10 am to 1 pm.

The event is centered at the gazebo on Carroll Avenue and includes pollinator-themed music, puppet show, poetry reading, informational resources (including a FOSC table), and a kids art activity.

Pick up a list of nearby homes with native plant gardens and take a self-guided walking tour (including the home of FOSC past president Bruce Sidwell on Spruce Street). Each garden will have its plants labelled.



Right: Lemon Cuckoo-Bumble Bee on Hemp Dogbane at the Wheaton Branch ponds June 10 (S. Davies photo)

While you're at the event, you can buy native plants from ACE Hardware or from vendors at the Takoma Park farmers market on Laurel Street between Carroll Avenue and Eastern Avenue, NW.

Enjoy a pollinator-themed beverage at nearby restaurants that display the National Pollinator Week sign. Check out nature photos by Paige Billen-Frye at SalonJAM at 7054 Carroll Ave. There will also be an appearance by Lorig Charkoudian, who represents Montgomery County in the Maryland House of Delegates. Pollinator attire for the whole event is encouraged!

On Tuesday, June 22, at 7 pm, the City of Takoma Park presents a panel discussion on Zoom titled "Birds, Bees, Bugs and Butterflies: The Pollinator Highway and You." Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

The June 20 celebration is organized by Takoma Mobilization's Climate Action Coffee. For more information, email judyfrose@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 20, 7 pm: Migratory Fish in Sligo Creek?

What are the prospects for migratory fish like shad and herring returning to Sligo Creek? Find out at this Zoom meeting with Phong Trieu of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Anacostia Program. He will describe his findings and observations about these migratory fish entering into Anacostia watershed tributaries in recent years. A Zoom link will go out to this newsletter list in July.

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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.

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