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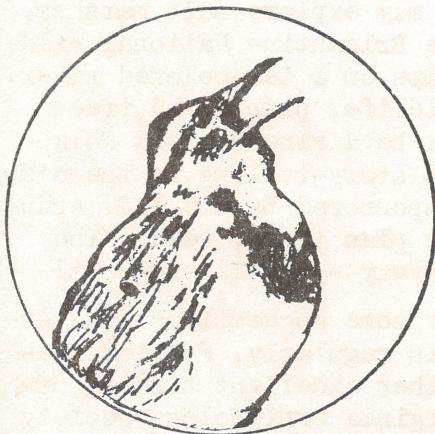
THE MEADOWLARK

A Conservation Newsletter From The Fairlington Friends of the Environment (FFOTE)

Number 25

Biennial Report

April 1981



BE IT KNOWN that over the past two years, we Fairlingtonians contributed 1,544,380 lbs. of newspapers for recycling into a brand new product - clean, white paper known as newsprint. This substitution of old newspapers for virgin wood fibers in the paper-making process saved 1,544 acres of trees...2,316 cu. yards of landfill space... \$11,500 in landfill costs...3,860 kilowatt hours of electricity ...and 2,509 barrels of oil. It also reduced air pollution by 73% and water use by 61%. \*

The FFOTE deeply appreciates the support of the Fairlington community, particularly those whose participation is really a labor of love because of distance to the curb, or steps, or hilly terrain, etc. We salute and thank you and all our

loyal recyclers and hope you share our pride in a project which benefits the environment and conserves our natural resources in so many ways.

INCOME & OUTGO Total proceeds from the sale of our newspapers to the Garden State Paper Co. of Garfield, N.J. amounted to approximately \$18,000. Pick-up service by the L.R. Stuart Co. of Manassas cost about \$15,000- our largest outlay. With the remaining income of approximately \$3,000, the FFOTE made contributions totalling \$2,395 to 67 environmental organizations including several humane societies. Donations ranged from \$4 (Friends of Arlington Parks) to \$110 (International Fund For Animal Welfare - the group headed by Brian Davis who has literally put his life on the line several times in an effort to save baby harp seals from the horrifying slaughter which takes place in Canada every year.)

FFOTE funds have allowed us to publish our newsletter as well as to underwrite a recent issue of the All-Fairlington Bulletin in its financial hour of need. Our bank account also permitted us to put on the successful Earth Day '80 celebration last spring; produce an entertaining (they tell us) and informative slide show describing in sound and living color what happens to our newspapers after they are picked up each Wednesday; donate a new Kodak slide projector purchased by the FFOTE to the Fairlington Community Center; and at Christmas time each year give an appropriate expression of our appreciation to the pick-up crew for their extra-fine service. A private donation pays for stationery, postage, etc.

Current bank balance: \$337.49.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to learn more about two of the organizations which the FFOTE supports, by coming to a program at the Fairlington (School) Community Center on Wednesday, April 22 at 8 p.m. (Social hour at 7:30) The guest speaker will be Mr. J. Paul Eckhardt, a resident of North Fairlington and a staff member of the Nature Conservancy. This well-known organization is committed to identifying the nation's remaining ecologically-significant lands, acquiring these areas by purchase or gift and maintaining them in perpetuity. One major holding of the Conservancy is a chain of 13 islands off the Virginia coast. Known as the Virginia Coast Reserve, these vast acres of sand and salt marsh are one of the country's finest remaining examples of undisturbed barrier islands. An award-winning documentary film, "The Atlantic's Last Frontier" will be shown and you won't want to miss it.

Also on the program will be a slide show produced by Environmental Action.-The gentle play on words of the title, "Many Happy Returns" belies its serious import. Environmental Action is a hard-hitting lobbying group and the leading national proponent of deposit legislation. Six states have now passed laws making deposits on beverage cans and bottles mandatory. All report an enormous drop in litter, litter clean-up costs and solid waste. They also find that deposit legislation creates jobs, conserves natural resources, saves energy and consumers' money. There is a "Virginia For Returnables" group with headquarters in Richmond and they need support. Come to the meeting and learn more about important deposit legislation. Perhaps you'll be the lucky winner of the "Return To Returnables" T-shirt door prize!

FFOTE'S CONSERVATIONIST-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD! This honor goes to Mr. Dennis Shumaker who has single-handedly collected the aluminum each month from the two drop-off places, sorted the cans and foil and turned them in at the Alexandria Scrap Co. From the proceeds realized, Dennis sent contributions to a number of environmental organizations as listed in the recent issue of the Bulletin. Our thanks and congratulations, Dennis!

\* Statistics furnished by the Garden State Paper Co., Environmental Protection Agency and the Arlington County Sanitation Dept.

THE GREAT NEW JERSEY GETAWAY Our membership in the N.J. Audubon Society and the Cape May Bird Observatory alerts us to two exciting coming events. The popular Spring Birding Weekend at Cape May occurs May 8, 9 and 10. This comes at the peak of the Spring migration season which is reputed to be even more spectacular than the Fall air show. A package arrangement provides accommodations at the beachfront Holiday Inn, meals, field trips to the best birding spots with outstanding leaders and a genuinely memorable experience at reasonable cost.

Or - spend the weekend of June 18, 19 and 20 in the legendary Pine Barrens. This will offer something for everyone. Twenty-four of New Jersey's top naturalists will be on hand to talk on the fascinating history, archaeology, Indians, ancient industries, geology, etc. of the Barrens as well as to conduct trips. You may explore salt marshes, cranberry and blueberry bogs, watch bird banding, visit the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge and take an all-day canoe trip among cedar swamps on a tea-colored river. You will have the opportunity to learn about the unique wildlife, plants and trees in this great wilderness and on Saturday evening there will be a Pine Barrens Folk Festival of "foot-stompin', hand-clappin', music, dance and story-telling in the old-time Piney tradition." This is also a package arrangement sponsored by the N.J. Audubon Society. For further information, call 379-7037. If you plan to go, read, "The Pine Barrens" by John McPhee. On second thought, read it anyway - you'll enjoy it!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BIRDING CLOSER TO HOME? Nothing! Here are some suggestions: The Arlington County Parks naturalists offer bird and nature walks regularly. For information, call the Long Branch Nature Center (558-2742). Two other excellent birding organizations in our area are the Northern Chapter of the Virginia Ornithology Society (Mrs. Marilla Furcolow, 671-8497) and the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase, Md. (301-652-9188).

DID YOU KNOW that bluebirds are making a comeback? Membership in the North American Bluebird Society informs us of the growing bluebird populations country-wide! The return of these beautiful little birds from near-extinction is largely due to the untiring and devoted efforts of Mr. Lawrence Zeleny of Maryland. For more information about the Society which he founded, ways to attract bluebirds and plans for making bluebird nesting boxes, write the North American Bluebird Society, Box 6295, Silver Spring, Md. 20906.

THE FFOTE'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY While the organizations mentioned above are basically scientific in purpose, they do offer pleasant excursions and activities for their members. However, most of the organizations which the FFOTE supports are concerned with far different objectives in which the work is seldom pleasant. In fact, it is discouraging, difficult, often harrowing as well as dangerous. These are the groups who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves - the animals of our earth. They are dedicated to easing the suffering so many animals endure at the hands of mankind (or as Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals would say, "Man Kind?"). These are the compassionate people who are trying to save the endangered land and sea mammals from extinction, from the cruelty of treatment in rodeos, pet shops, zoos, slaughter houses, horse shows, horse races, dog races and other places ad nauseam. There are groups working desperately for the passage of legislation that would eliminate much of the use of live animals in horrible tests and experiments. Other groups and thousands of individuals have urged the passage of laws that would ban the use of that instrument of torture - the steel-jawed leghold trap. Several states have mercifully outlawed its use and we fervently hope for the day it will be banished forever. Our admiration and respect for these humane organizations knows no bounds which is why our greatest satisfaction comes in supporting them as generously as we possibly can.

MAIL - IT'S TOO MUCH ! The excessive amounts of unsolicited, unwanted mail which many of us receive is not only irritating but is having serious consequences. The problem stems from the pervasive practice of selling, renting and exchanging mailing lists. These lists bear the names of good prospects for buying a product or supporting a cause. The lists are then computerized in thousands of offices so that your name and worse - its variations, may appear countless times. Without going into the pros and cons, we would like to point out that this practice which has swept the country like a plague, is generating an enormous waste since much, if not most of the mail goes straight into the wastebasket immediately, usually unread. Duplications of the same letter sent to Jane Doe, Ms. Jane Doe, J. Doe etc. account for much of this throwaway mail and it all adds up to a shocking waste of postal service, postage, paper, energy and finally, landfill space where it all ends up! WHAT YOU CAN DO: From now on, every time you send a contribution or place an order by mail, add this message: "Please do not exchange my name with any other organization" (or company). Call local organizations or companies by telephone and make this request. Use the return envelopes that come with many appeals to send back the duplicate labels along with your request. Write the Direct Mail Marketing Asso. at 6 East 43rd Street, New York, N.Y.10017. This will reduce unwanted commercial catalogs. All this takes time and patience but it may help!

" The rapid environmental degradation of this planet is a time bomb, as great a threat to both our national and our global survival as is the threat of nuclear annihilation." ... Jimmy Carter

From his farewell address