

Greetings from our Superintendent...



Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Nolley Fisher and in May of this year I became the new park Superintendent of Downs Park. I have worked for Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks for the last 17 years as a Park Ranger. I began my Ranger career in 2000, as a seasonal ranger at Downs Park and in 2002 I was promoted to Full time ranger status. I remained a full-time ranger at Downs until 2009, at which time; I was transferred to Kinder Farm Park.

During my stay at Kinder Farm Park I quickly settled in, all the while, making the most of what I have often considered the best job imaginable. My years at Kinder Farm Park were filled with unforgettable memories, working side by side with the excellent staff and exceptional volunteer groups which make Kinder Farm Park a premier attraction of Anne Arundel County. Nevertheless, part of my heart, has always been with Downs Park and I often dreamed of the day I could return to where it all began. In May, that dream became a reality, as I was promoted and offered the position of Downs Park Superintendent. In my eyes, my career had come full circle. I would not know where to begin to thank all those who have helped and supported me along the way, but for those who have worked with me over the years, I would tell them to “please know that they played a crucial part in my dreams and journey”.

As the Superintendent of Downs Park, I have enjoyed reuniting with staff that remains from my previous tenure, as well as, starting new relationships with staff members who arrived after my departure in 2009. When it comes to staff, it has always been a “family” atmosphere here at Downs and I plan on continuing that tradition. I am excited to work with the numerous volunteer groups that assist the park, like the Friends of Downs Park, who have made my transition quite easy to say the least. I am currently still settling in but in the months and years to come I invite you to join me on my next journey. A journey that involves the dream of bringing an excitement to Park through various programs, events, and milestones. Enjoy the remainder of your summer. Please bring the family and come on down and visit us at Downs Park. We hope to see you soon!!!



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Superintendent at Downs Park
- Ticks
- Concert Series
- Upcoming Events
- Wagon Refurbishing
- Our Sponsors
- Membership application



The Friends of Downs Park met to congratulate our Past Superintendent Deb Yeater on her well-deserved retirement.



The Friends of Downs Park

The Friends of Downs Park is a small group of dedicated volunteers. Although we each have our own talents, our main focus is to raise funds for Downs Park and to reach out to the community with our family events. Some of our events include Lunch with the Easter Bunny, Community Family Day, the Sunday Concert Series, Trick or Treat Trail, and Cookies & Cocoa with Santa.

The Friends group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 P.M. at the Downs Park Visitor Center. Please come and share your talents and ideas with us. We would love to have you join us!

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities within Downs Park. If you have an hour or two and would like to give back to your community by volunteering, why not join us!

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- Mother's Garden \* Board of Directors
- Community Events \* Park Cleanup
- Fundraising \* Tech Support
- Vendor Fair \* Grant Writing

Children's Events

and more....



## To Volunteer

Everybody can be great....because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

*(Author unknown)*

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## COLORS OF FALL

Two native trees splash reds and oranges around our beautiful woods in autumn: flowering dogwood (above) and persimmon (below).

The small dogwood tree (*Cornus florida*) is actually a delight all through the year. When its leaves drop, you can clearly see the “winter skeleton,” with its gracefully arcing branches. Next spring will come the showy floral display, followed by the tiered foliage of summer.



Downs Park’s dogwoods seem to be avoiding the disease problems that have recently beset native dogwoods. The tree is still a good one to consider for the home landscape; look for a cultivar that is disease-resistant.

The persimmon tree (*Diospyros virginiana*) is best known

for its fruit, which takes on a pumpkin color as the air turns cool and crisp. Eaten too soon, the fruit will pucker your mouth. Allowed to ripen fully, its taste will remind you of a date, although the Virginia colony’s Capt. John Smith wrote that the fruit “is as delicious as an apricot.” Persimmons are used to make pudding and other desserts, wine, and beer. The tree, a member of the ebony family, has some of the hardest wood around.

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## DEER AT DOWNS PARK

Visitors to Downs Park are often treated to sightings of local white-tailed deer that live in the Park and sometimes the transient deer that live in other areas, but visit the Park at certain times. Of course, deer promote the presence of deer ticks in the Park.

Some Park visitors have expressed questions, such as why are there so many ticks, and what can be done about reducing the number of the number of them? Currently, steps are underway to install four new deer feeding stations in the Park.



The stations are designed to dispense tick repellent directly on the deer when they come to eat, so the life cycle of the ticks will be disrupted.

This system has worked well in other areas and it is expected to make a difference in Downs Park, although results may not be noticed right away.

## TICKS AND OTHER ANNOYING CRITTERS

### **Ticks, Mosquitoes and Chiggers – Bring insect repellent and be safe!**

Downs Park provides a wonderful place to play, relax or exercise while enjoying the beauty of nature. As in every natural setting, Park visitors need to be prepared to interact with the environment, and one step in doing so means taking precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, ticks and chiggers. Chiggers are very tiny and difficult to spot, and while they don't carry diseases, their bite can create a very itchy area that can become infected. Although it may not be 100% possible to avoid them all, using an insect repellent on all adults and children during each visit is an important way to making sure that everyone stays as safe as possible from insects. Staying on trails and avoiding contact with leaves and brush are the best strategies to prevent coming into contact with ticks and chiggers. During the visit, tick checks should be conducted periodically, and insect repellent reapplied as necessary. At the end of the visit, thorough tick checks should be conducted (pets included), and proper steps taken to remove ticks if any are found. After an outing, making sure to shower and washing all clothing in hot water are important steps to take as soon as possible. A very helpful brochure for dealing with ticks, called "Maryland Get Ticked Off" from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental

Hygiene. The brochure can be found online at the following site.

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Shared%20Documents/4934TICKSBRO%20bw%20mdh.pdf>



**PREVENT  
LYME  
DISEASE!**

### **To Remove a Tick**

- Use fine-tipped tweezers and protect your hands with a tissue or gloves.
- Grab the tick close to the skin. -- Do not twist or jerk the tick.
- Gently pull straight up until all parts of the tick are removed.
- Clean the tick bite with soap and water or an anti-septic.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based rub.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish or other products to remove ticks.

*Articles provided by  
Kathy McCrudden, FODP member*

## SEPTEMBER CONCERT SERIES

A reminder to all that the September Concert Series will start off on **Sunday September 3rd** starring “APPALOOSA.” All concerts run from **4:30 P.M. until 6:30 P.M.** A food truck will be available for dinner foods! Please visit our Friends of Downs Park table and say hello!

September 3—Appaloosa

September 10—Sunset

September 17—Summer Knights

September 24—Back Pages Band LLC



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



The Friends of Downs Park would like to thank our wonderful Sponsors for their support! We couldn't have done it without you! Their generous contributions have made it possible to continue on with our community events. Please show your appreciation by supporting their businesses and **SHOP LOCAL!**

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## JOIN US AT THE PARK FOR THE UPCOMING EVENTS

### Trick or Treat Trail

Saturday, October 28, 2017 — Noon til 4 P.M.



Child Friendly Trick or Treating  
Ages 12 and under

Vendors, facepainting, pumpkins, and more!

For information on vendor tables,  
contact Stephanie at 443-685-4333

### COOKIES and COCOA WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 10, 2017  
(ages 12 and under)

*(Keep an eye open for more details!)*



## REFURBISHING OUR NEW RIDE

In years past, the Friends of Downs Park has borrowed wagons from Kinder Park for our community events. In October of last year, Kinder Park relayed they had an old wagon that Downs Park could have if they were interested. When looking at the old wagon sitting out in the field, first thoughts were “You have to be kidding.” But, with the help of the Kinder Park sawmill members, skilled carpenter Paul Downey, and two of our Friends of Downs Park members Norman Huffman and John Menas, that old abandoned wagon in the field turned into a beautiful ride! I might add that the refurbished wagon was entirely made from a seventeen and a half foot tree trunk that was laying at the sawmill. It is greatly appreciated and will be used for years to come!



**Together we can do it!**



*John Menas and Norm Huffman removed the old boards and are getting ready for sanding.*



*Paint job, new tires and rims purchased before transporting the wagon to the sawmill.*



*The Kinder Park Sawmill Crew*



*Downs Park maintenance  
George Thurman has been great  
support and is ready to transport  
back to Kinder Park*

*John, Norm, and Paul covering the  
wooden planks cut by the sawmill.  
Getting ready to start the project.*



*Carpenter Paul Downey had NO  
written plans for the project. He said  
"It's all in my head!"*

*Norm and John learned quite a bit  
serving as Mr. Paul's laborers.*



*Tyler Smith Jr. was first to try out the new steps!*



*Our  
finished  
project*

*Newsletter compiled by  
Jane Huffman, FODP member*