

FOJB Fosters Land Stewardship

The following excerpts from past FOJB presidents' letters reveal the Friends' ardent defense of the Sanctuary from threats of disturbance.



2003 *Two local businessmen want to build a horse rink for shows and riding on the 40-acre site in the Glendening Nature Preserve that is excluded from the conservation easement on the rest of the property. Everyone agreed that FOJB and the Bristol Civic Association needed to be*

Students view waterbirds from the Observation Deck

briefed on the proposal and given the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues of concern.

The Board adopted a position in opposition

to the proposal to build a riding rink and hold equestrian events on the old horse farm section of the Glendening Nature Preserve.

The proposal to build an equestrian rink on the Glendening Preserve has been effectively withdrawn, and Anne Arundel County is moving ahead to designate the Glendening Preserve as part of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

At a public meeting on February 3, 2004, to solicit public input on the draft Management Plan, I spoke in favor of it and have since drafted a letter of support on behalf of the Friends. In general, the plan is to manage the Preserve similarly to the Sanctuary with some increased public access. These include [tasks] that will require the assistance of the Friends and the many volunteers who help in so many ways at the Sanctuary.

This speaks to a theme of great importance to me: that we serve as examples to the younger people who will come after us. What we do today is critical to the legacy we leave for them.

—Bill Steiner

2005 *In an effort to continue protecting the Patuxent River and the land surrounding the Sanctuary, the FOJB board has decided to develop a land stewardship committee. The committee is still evolving, but one objective developed thus far includes extending the additional protection to lands already administered by the Sanctuary.*

The best present that I could have wished for was the permanent preservation of all the land included in the Sanctuary. As many of you know, different parcels of the land have been acquired at different times, over many years, with money from several different sources. Only one parcel, the Parris Glendening Nature Preserve at Jug Bay, had protection. Permanent protection may not seem important until you hear of plans by the present Governor to sell off open space and parkland. Yes, there was public outcry and the plan was stopped, and yes, Jug Bay is county parkland and there would be a huge amount of outrage if some of the land was sold for development, but there currently is no legal protection. That all changed when County Executive Janet Owens made a proclamation at the 20th anniversary celebration that protective covenants would be placed on all 1,400 acres of Sanctuary land.

—Peggy Brosnan

Friends Raised \$50,000 for Wetlands Exhibit

1995 *We have embarked upon a fundraising campaign to help finance the new exhibits for the nature center. This will make learning about wetlands even more exciting for both children and adults alike. The FOJB is aiming to raise \$25,000 in grant money from nonprofit foundations and an additional \$25,000 from private and corporate sources and through our own initiative.*

The official launch of the fund-raising campaign took place in October with a wine and cheese party. We were honored to have U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer, Maryland State Senator Mike Miller, and Maryland Delegate John Leopold as our guests. Also some of the almost 200 invited members of the local business community, and some Friends of Jug Bay.

—Doug Kuzmiak

1999 *It is with an enormous amount of pride that I am writing this last update for the Interactive Wetlands Education Project fundraising, successfully concluded in early June with the receipt of the France-Merrick change grant of \$10,000, which enabled the Friends of Jug Bay to reach their goal of \$50,000. The new exhibits have just been installed and prepared for the official opening on October 2—Estuaries Day.*

—Doug Kuzmiak