



Knobs and Knolls

July 2017

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Nature Center Expansion – Moving Right Along!

Visible progress is now underway in the Nature Center Expansion. The massive metal structure that will house the aquatic species display in the main upstairs gallery is now in place. All of the aquariums are installed and their interior decorations complete. The next step will be the graphics and the reader rails.

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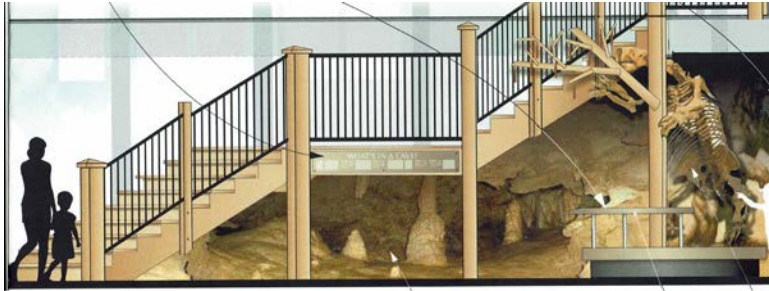
All new aquariums are now in place in one central array

From this point forward, things will be happening quickly as the pedestals and backdrops for the two large dioramas will be installed next. Once that work is done, the dioramas themselves can be constructed - one featuring the terrestrial creatures that call Steele Creek Park home, the other displaying the wide variety of birds that can be found in the Park.

Meanwhile, off-site work has already begun to create the fabulous crawl through cave that will fill the space below the stairway overlooking the lake. Once installed, the cave will feature structures that are typically found in the caves of our region, and children will be encouraged to explore the exhibit.

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Nature Center Expansion (continued)



Graphic depiction of the Crawl Through Cave exhibit

One of the last exhibits to be installed before the opening in October is the waterfowl exhibit. An acrylic lake displaying taxidermy ducks and fish, with specimens of ducks and geese in flight overhead against a mural of billowing clouds, will mirror the view of the actual lake and knobs from the spectacular windows across the gallery.



Balcony view overlooking the lake and knobs



Graphic depiction of the Waterfowl exhibit

While all of these exhibits are being created and installed, the 1,200 square foot DeFriece-Wilson Classroom will be completed and fully equipped for use beginning in October when the building officially opens.



The future DeFriece-Wilson classroom

All of these features will be completed in time for our Grand Opening in conjunction with Wildlife Weekend, October 13th & 14th 2017.

There's plenty to be done before October, but that's only the beginning. As additional funds become available, many more displays and interactive exhibits are on the drawing board. If you want to help make these future exhibits become a reality, [check our Expansion Donation web page and give or pledge today!](#)

Membership Levels and Benefits

Effective July 1, we have a new membership structure and dues schedule. This is the first significant change in our membership structure since Friends was organized 20 years ago. In addition to defining membership benefits, we have formalized the opportunity for multi-year sustaining memberships.

A summary of the new membership levels, dues, and benefits can be found below.

Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park - Membership Levels and Benefits

	Annual Dues	Electronic Newsletter	Decal	Magnet	Mailed Newsletter*	Tote*	Annual Park Pass*	Custom SCP Note Cards*	Additional Benefits
Standard Memberships									
Student	\$10	✓	✓						
Senior	\$10	✓	✓						
Individual/Family	\$20	✓	✓						
Sustaining Memberships									
Holly (Friend)	\$50	✓	✓	✓	✓				Donor recognition at Nature Center
Magnolia (Contributor)	\$100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Donor recognition at Nature Center
Pine (Supporter)	\$500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Donor recognition at Nature Center
Poplar (Partner)	\$1,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Donor recognition at Nature Center
Hemlock (Patron)	\$2,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Donor recognition at Nature Center Invitation to special Nature Center events
Multi-year Sponsorships (Minimum 2 years)									
	(Per Year)								
Chestnut (Sponsor)	\$2,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Special donor recognition at NC Invitation to special and after hours events
Maple (Benefactor)	\$5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Special donor recognition at NC Invitation to special and after hours events
Oak (Champion)	\$10,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Special donor recognition at NC Invitation to special and after hours events

* If requested

Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park is a 501(c)(3) organization. No goods or services of any value are provided in exchange for dues or donations (unless starred items* above are accepted. All membership dues and donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join, simply complete the form below and mail it with the appropriate dues amount to: *Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park, P.O. Box 1763, Bristol, TN 37621.*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Additional Phone(s) (work and/or cell) _____

E-mail _____

Membership Category

____ Student - \$10

____ Senior - \$10

____ Individual/Family - \$20

____ Holly (Friend) - \$50

____ Magnolia (Contributor) - \$100

____ Pine (Supporter) - \$500

____ Poplar (Partner) - \$1,000

____ Hemlock (Patron) - \$2,500

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Contact us if you are interested in a multi-year sponsorship!

New Board Members and Officers for 2017-18

At the annual organizational meeting in June, our Board of Directors welcomed five new Board members and elected officers for 2017-18.

New Board Members

Jamey Bowling (Director of Development, Healing Hands Health Center)

Rush Powers (President, Burke, Powers & Harty Insurance)

Langley Shazor (In School Detention Coordinator, Bristol Virginia Public Schools)

Terri Thomas (Financial Secretary, First Baptist Church, Bristol TN)

Ned Zeiler (Independent Business Consultant)

Officers for 2017-18

President - Michele Sparks

Vice President – Sonie Schermer

Treasurer – Ned Zeiler

Secretary – Han Ong

2017-18 Executive Committee

Michele Sparks

Sonie Schermer

Ned Zeiler

Han Ong

Jamey Bowling

Rush Powers

A complete list of our Board members can be found on our website: www.friendsofsteelecreek.org.

Thanks to Our 2016-17 Members and Donors

Many thanks to all those who contributed to *Friends* this past year through either their membership or donations made to our Nature Center Expansion Fund. We couldn't have continued our important work in support of the Nature Center and Steele Creek Park without your support!

Oak (Champion) \$25,000+

Massengill-DeFriece Foundation

Anne and Ben Cowan

Maple (Benefactor) \$10,000 - \$24,999

Lea and Rush Powers

Joe and Sandy Armstrong

Chestnut (Sponsor) \$5,000 - \$9,999

Strongwell Corporation (Multi-year: \$5,000/year for 5 years)

Friendship Enterprises (Multi-year: \$5,000/year for 3 years)

Wallace Coffey Memorial Fund

Bill and Sonie Schermer

Margaret and Robin Feierabend

Don and Ginia Shawl

Spike Tickle

Hemlock (Patron) \$2,500 - \$4,999

AT&T Tennessee

Blue Ridge Garden Club

Citizens Bank

Eastman Credit Union

Marcia and Marvin Gilliam

Connie Mergel

Optimist Club of Bristol TN/VA

Carol and Doug Taylor

John and Karen Vann

Audrey and Sarfraz Zaidi

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Thanks to Our 2016-17 Members and Donors (continued)

Poplar (Partner) \$1,000 - \$2,499

Donald Coffey
John and Brenda Fincher
Karen Quesenberry
Michael D. Rowell
Dale and Joneen Sargent
Speedway Children's Charities

Pine (Supporter) \$500 - \$999

Bristol Bird Club
Curtis and Charlotte Burnette
Lois and Larry Clarke
Rick and Diane Gentry
Nelson and Deborah Gwaltney
Edd Hill
Lucyann Jewell
Bill and Brenda Johnstone
Andy Jones and Michelle Leighty
Jon and Lisa Lundberg
Dian McIlwain
Roger and Karen McSharry
Ron Oliver
Bill and Karen Sorah

Magnolia (Contributor) \$100 - \$499

Betty and Gary Bailey
Brad and Debbie Beeson
Nell and Dan Bieger
James and Julie Bittinger
Joday and Bob Blevins
Stephanie Blevins
Ray and Andrea Bloomer
Theresa Burriss
Austin and Eddythe Carr
Janet L. Coffey
Darrell and Judy Cole
J.B. and Pat Combs
John and Mary Connor
Dr. and Mrs. Grat Correll
Joyce and Tom Cosby
Ron and Lois Crockett
Joan Z. Crockett

Magnolia (Contributor) \$100 - \$499 (continued)

Jennifer and Preston Deal
Bradley Deal
Steve and Pat Dixon
Kenneth H. Dubke
Stephen and Karyn Dunderf
Fairmount Garden Club
Kristin E. Feierabend
Janel and Scott Feierabend
Donna Fleenor
W. David Fletcher
Frank Goodpasture, III
Dr. Thomas C. and Janice Greene
Ed and Linda Hagaman
Eddie Harkleroad
Ron and Joan Harrington
Shannon Hensley and Dennis Crouch
Susan S. Hollyday
Barbara Kingsolver and Steven Hopp
Joseph and Genie Jackson
Ruth King
Isabelle and Richard Ladd
Elizabeth Ann and Timothy Landis
Susan and Jim Lapis
Ebitari Larsen
Sara and Klyne Lauderback
Jeff and Anita Levine
Gary and Tracy Lilly
David and Becky Luther
The Nature Conservancy
Myers and Jan Massengill
George and Junella McClellan
Nancy McPeak
William Messerschmidt
Carl and Elliott Moore
Bob and Ellen Mueller
Han Ong
Patt Phipps and Beth Taylor
Linda Roberts
Craig and Brennan Rockett
Nora Rockett
Frances Rowell

Thanks to Our 2016-17 Members and Donors (continued)

Magnolia (Contributor) \$100 - \$499 (continued)

Mary Lynn and H.D. Satterwhite
David and Anne Shumaker
Michele Sparks
Michael and Karen Spear
Shelby and Rodney Taylor
Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter TOA
John and Ann Tickle
Jill and Matt Turosz
Dr. Mark and Beth Webb
Wendy Weidner
Bill and Billie Whisnant
Clarence and Becky Wilkerson
Douglas and Laraine Williams
Lura Williams
Gary and Jill Wishart
Jerry Woodby

Holly (Friend) \$1 - \$99

David Johnson and Jean Alexander
Jack and Nancy Arnold
Evelyn and Bob Barrett
Louise Bennett
Linda Sue Borders
Roberta Boring
Dr. and Mrs. William Bridgforth
BSA Troop #15
Jo Ann Cahill
Mrs. A. L. Carlsen
Alice and Robert Cheers
Cathy and Greg Clarity
Mary Clark
Ruth Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Cochran
Kristen and James Cornett
Patricia and Vincent Corvino
Greg and Stephenie Cousins
Sylvia Crum
Charlotte Duncan
Neal Feierabend
Anne R. Fleming
Sharon and Powell Foster
Dewey Fuller
GAAM Wealth Advisors

Holly (Friend) \$1 - \$99 (continued)

Scott and Joy Garland
Carole P. Gobert
Linda Gronski
Loraine Hale
Dr. Jon and Ramona Harr
Steve and Tracy Hawkins
Anne Haynes
Earl O. Henry, Jr.
Adrienne Hess
Anna Hess
Jacqueline Hinshaw
Tony and Beth Hobbs
Thomas Horsch
Martha Huber
Ambrea Johnson
Wendy Johnson
Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman
Parkis and Jennifer Kennedy
Richard Knight
Frances Lamberts
Nate Lancaster
Dale Marion
Allan Marshall
Thomas and Barbara Maryanski
Dr. Jeff and Jennifer McQueary
Bryan and Joyce Moore
Judy M. Moose
Ron and Anna Morgan
Steven Morton
Ellen, Bob and Charlie Parker
Tracy and Bill Pierce
Larry and Jo Anne Routledge
Steven and Cynthia Routledge
Helen Scott
Helen Sirett
Bob and Candy Sutherland
Ben Talley
H. Chip Thomas
Terri Thomas
Barbara and Challen Walling
Barbara and Ernest Williams
Sherry and Steve Willinger

Summer Nature Center Activities

Wednesday, July 26th, 8:30 pm. National Moth Week Moth Night. Become a citizen scientist for a day and help record species for National Moth Week! Meet Lance at the Nature Center for a talk on our local moths. Then go out to the light trap and see what we've attracted!

Friday, July 28th, 11:00 am. Rooster Front Creek Walk. Meet Don at Rooster Front Park (located on Vance Drive) for a wet and wild jaunt into the creek! You'll search for critters and determine the health of our streams. Wear shoes and clothes that can get wet.

Friday, August 11th, 10:00 am. Rooster Front Dragonfly Walk. Meet Don at Rooster Front Park (located on Vance Drive) for an easy hike looking for these warm weather gems of the skies. Bring binoculars and a camera if you have them.

Saturday, August 12th, 2:00 pm. Caterpillar Crawl. Meet Lance at the Nature Center for a stroll looking for and indentifying the larva of moths and butterflies. You won't want to miss it – some caterpillars are just as wild and beautiful as their adult forms!

Monday, August 21st, 2:00 pm. Solar Eclipse!!! Bristol will be graced with a near-total solar eclipse at approximately 2:40 pm on 8/21/17! We'll have sunscopes set up, meteorites on display, and representatives from the Bristol Astronomy Club. We're giving away free sun-viewing glasses for the first 200 participants!

Friday, August 25th, 4:00 pm. Edible and Medicinal Plants Walk. Meet Jeremy at the Nature Center for a mild walk into the woods to learn about some common but beneficial plants of the region.

2017 Wildlife Weekend Amateur Photography Contest and Show

It's time to start getting your favorite Steele Creek Park Photos ready to submit to our 2017 Wildlife Weekend Photography Contest and Show. Amateur photographers of all ages, including children and teens are encouraged to participate. Eligible photographs must be taken at Steele Creek Park and should focus on the natural aspects of the Park. Deadline for submitting photos is 4:00 pm, Friday, September 22nd. Details and entry applications will be available online and at the Nature Center and Slater Center beginning Tuesday, August 1st.

You can keep up with what's going on at the Park and with *Friends* by liking us on Facebook ([FriendsOfSteeleCreekPark](#)) or by following our webpage at <https://www.friendsofstelecreek.org>.

We appreciate feedback about our communication. Let us know if you find these newsletters interesting and/or useful. If you have suggestions for topics to be covered, or other formats that we could use, let us know by e-mail at mail@friendsofstelecreek.org.

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