

Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks



APRIL 2021 E-NEWSLETTER:

EARTH WEEK CELEBRATION | PART 2 OF AVIARY
FEATURE ARTICLE SERIES | SPRING PARK UPDATES

Welcome Friends!

MISSION STATEMENT

To support and enhance the programs and recreational offerings of Maryland's Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks through charitable contributions and in-kind donations.

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Aviary Article (Part 2 of 3) – by Zoë Brittain.

In the last issue of this newsletter [March 2021], we met Rosie, the Barred Owl, and learned how the staff of Cunningham Falls State Park Aviary are helping her adapt to her new life. In this issue, we'll take a look at how the quality of lives of other rescued animals is preserved.

The rescued birds of the Aviary each requires special care. Isabella the Great Horned Owl was hit by a car and had one of her wings amputated. In response, the Aviary crew built a ramp so she could get to her perch. Teddy, the Aviary's only Bald Eagle, was languishing in a small enclosure. Thanks to donations from this Friends group and others, the Aviary was able to provide a large, airy space in which he now thrives.



Look for Teddy (Bald Eagle) on his perch in the back corner of the large new enclosure

Aviary Article (continued from page 3).

Each resident of the Aviary enjoys accommodations that support its individual needs for health and enrichment. “Once they're here, aside from the fact that they will not be free and wild on their own anymore, they have the best care,” says Ranger Smith. “For their only option, they have the best option.”

There are even plans to construct a trout pond in Teddy’s enclosure that would allow him to catch his food in a more true-to-nature way. Visitors to the park can donate toward this project via the donation box posted on the Aviary gate!

Want to see Isabella, Teddy and the gang yourself? Currently, the Aviary is open to park visitors on the weekends. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the aviary is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to Covid restrictions, the Aviary’s gates are closed, but their ambassadors can still be viewed from the outside. The Park Service’s interpretive program Scales & Tales is also featured in many of the park’s programs.

In the final part of this series [coming in May], learn how you can contribute to and help safeguard the wellbeing of wildlife in and outside of the Aviary.



Close up of Teddy
(resident Bald Eagle at
the Aviary)

Spring Parks message from Assistant Park Manager Jeremy Hulse

The camping season is in full swing here at the park. The William Houck Area, Manor Area, and Gambrill State Park campgrounds are all open and accepting reservations for this year's season.

Reservations can be made online at:

parkreservations.maryland.gov

or over the phone at 1-888-432-2267. (General Campground info: 301-271-7574).

Many of our seasonal employees have been hired and have started for the season. Their main focus is park maintenance and beautification projects while we work to prepare for the busy season which kicks off Memorial Day Weekend.

The virtual Maple Syrup Festival was a great success, Many people came out to enjoy the interpretive activities at the park while many more enjoyed the video series. The online store raised over \$1,100 which will go to support future park needs.



Cunningham Falls Camp Host Jim Sanders assists with trash pick up on Earth Day.

More than 20 staff members and volunteers participated (details in article)

**Cunningham Falls State Park
information:**

[\(Park Web Page \)](#)

**Gambrill State Park
information:**

[\(Park Web Page \)](#)

**Friends of Cunningham Falls
and Gambrill State Parks:**

cunninghamgambrill.org

(Message from Ass't Park Manager, continued from page 5).

Ranger Scott Offutt joined our staff as our new Ranger. He comes to us with prior state and county park experience and we are excited to have him as part of the team.

20 Staff and Volunteers celebrated Earth Day by picking up trash on roadsides and park boundaries throughout the complex. Over 25 big bags of litter were removed and properly disposed of. These efforts will continue throughout the summer, we are extremely grateful for our devoted volunteers who helped to make this possible.

Ranger Padilla led several Invasive Species pulls throughout the park. The group has been extremely productive in removing garlic mustard, barberry, and tree of heaven so far this season.

Volunteer opportunity: Ranger Padilla is planning to host two weed pulls each month spring through fall. If interested, email her at claudia.padilla@maryland.gov.