Historic Huntley Opens with a Flourish!

On **Saturday, May 19**, officials from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), and local government officials came to Historic Huntley on a magnificent sunny afternoon to cut the ribbon, officially opening Huntley to the public. More than 200 people attended the celebratory event and press coverage was extensive. Friends of Historic Huntley (FOHH), founded in 1992, was delighted to be able to celebrate its 20th anniversary during the opening of the beautifully restored building. FCPA Lee District Representative Ed Batten was a splendid master of ceremonies. Speakers included Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, and Tim Aiken, legislative director for Congressman James Moran.

FOHH President Barbara Ballentine thanked all those who had made the day possible. In recognition of FOHH founder Norma Hoffman’s past and present efforts to preserve Huntley, FOHH gave Norma a bowl handcrafted by Don Johnson from the wood of the 112-year-old white oak that grew next to the spring house on Huntley’s grounds. Other handcrafted items from the same source were presented to Karen Lindquist, for her attention to the many historic details that brought the house back to its 1825 configuration, to Jim Duncan, for his extraordinary efforts during the restoration of the Mason-era buildings, and to Carolyn Gamble, for her consistent support of FOHH programs and as a member of the construction team.

A special guest of honor was Susan Escherich, long-time FOHH president, who came from Rhode Island to attend this event.

Huntley Meadows Park staff worked very hard to have the building and grounds ready and shining for the event. FOHH extends its deepest gratitude to them all for their extra efforts. Refreshments provided by FOHH included period-authentic ginger snaps made by Annabel Baer—an instant hit with Ed Batten.

After the ribbon cutting, guests poured into Huntley to see the architecture rooms, which portray how the building was built and describe construction terms. The concept and design for these rooms were the result of the 2011 FOHH summer internship, a position held by Nora Allen. During the opening, Nora served as a docent to answer visitor questions. The two rooms on the west side of the house contain the history of Thomson Mason and the building. After so many years of working and waiting, we all enjoyed the wonderful opening celebration.

**More Huntley News:** www.historichuntley.org/newsletter

- Photos of the Opening Celebration
- **FOHH: An Overview, 1992-2012** by Barbara Ballentine, President, FOHH
- **First Summer at Huntley** by Geoffrey Cohrs, Site Coordinator, HMP
- **2012 Internship** by Celeste Sharpe, FOHH Summer Intern
- **2011 Internship** by Nora Allen, FOHH Summer Intern
FRIENDS OF HISTORIC HUNTLEY
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Huntley-Related Web Sites
www.historichuntley.org
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/histhunt/
www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

FCPA Park Bond on November 6 Ballot
Fairfax County citizens will be able to cast their vote for the 2012 FCPA Park Bond issue during the November 6 elections. Included in the bond, under Land Acquisition and Stewardship, would be funds to renovate the tenant house at Historic Huntley, the final critical work to be accomplished at the site. Please consider voting in favor of the bond! More information and a photo of the property can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2012bond.htm.

New Staff at Huntley Meadows Park
FOHH is delighted to welcome Geoffrey W. Cohrs, historic interpreter and site coordinator for Historic Huntley, who joined the staff at Huntley Meadows Park in May. Geoff works part-time as he completes a master’s degree at George Mason University in applied history and digital media/American history. Karen Sheffield, who replaces Carolyn Gamble as the new operations and visitor services manager, served as program manager at Riverbend Park for 13 years.

Events at Huntley Meadows Park
HMP is hopping! Wild Side Wagon Rides—a 90-minute tractor ride in the park—take place on many Saturdays through November 4. The Sky’s the Limit, paintings of blue sky and cloud patterns by Maremi Hoof, are on view through October. Take a Night Walk through the woods on October 6. Other activities include: birding programs, park manager Walk and Talks, and programs for young naturalists, scouts, and tiny tots. For more information call 703.768.2525.

Join Friends of Historic Huntley today!
☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member ☐ Enclosed is my check for $10
Name: _____________________________  Tel:  Home: _________________
Address: ________________________________  Work: __________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________

I’m also interested in volunteering in the following area(s):
☐ Greeter/Docent  ☐ Special events  ☐ Historical research  ☐ Fundraising

For FOHH use only:  Date received: _______ Amount: _______