



FOJB Annual Report

FY19/20

The Friends of Jug Bay acts to preserve the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and to support its education and research programs.

Never before has the world been so dependent upon protected areas for the conservation of wildlife. The Friends of Jug Bay and other volunteers have long dedicated efforts aimed at safeguarding the Jug Bay Wildlife Sanctuary -- a nationally recognized ecosystem housing a unique assembly of habitats, including open water, wetlands, forest, grasslands and meadows and rich flora and fauna.

As a non-profit organization since 1986, the Friends foster activities that increase public appreciation and understanding of the natural environment of Jug Bay and the Patuxent River watershed. These activities cover education, research and stewardship and are constantly expanded to meet new challenges. Each year, over 10,000 visitors enjoy educational and citizen science programs for students, families and groups, with the Friends volunteering in support.

Activities in 2019/20

In 2019, members of the FOJB and donors helped provide financial support to the Sanctuary and its staff in an impressive array of activities and projects:

- Education: Bus transportation for underserved schools, Summer Camp Scholarships, Summer Camp Junior Counselors;
- Organized scheduled events and special workshops and classes;
- Assisted in Jug Bay Wildlife Sanctuary staff development;
- Funded scientific and educational equipment and Research Fellowships for college students;
- Supported special projects: Explore the Patuxent Teen Leadership Paddle, the Patuxent River Conference, Waysons Playspace, construction of a bird blind, Spring Festival/Plant sale, Women on the Water, Taste of the Wild and Holiday Wreath Workshop;
- Maintenance of pollinator gardens and green infrastructure;
- Support for Costa Rica Excursion to Palo Verde National Park;
- Environmental stewardship: deer management and invasive species control;
- Creation of a new website and accounting system; and,
- Publication of a book *Nature's Calendar: A Year in the Life of a Wildlife Sanctuary*.

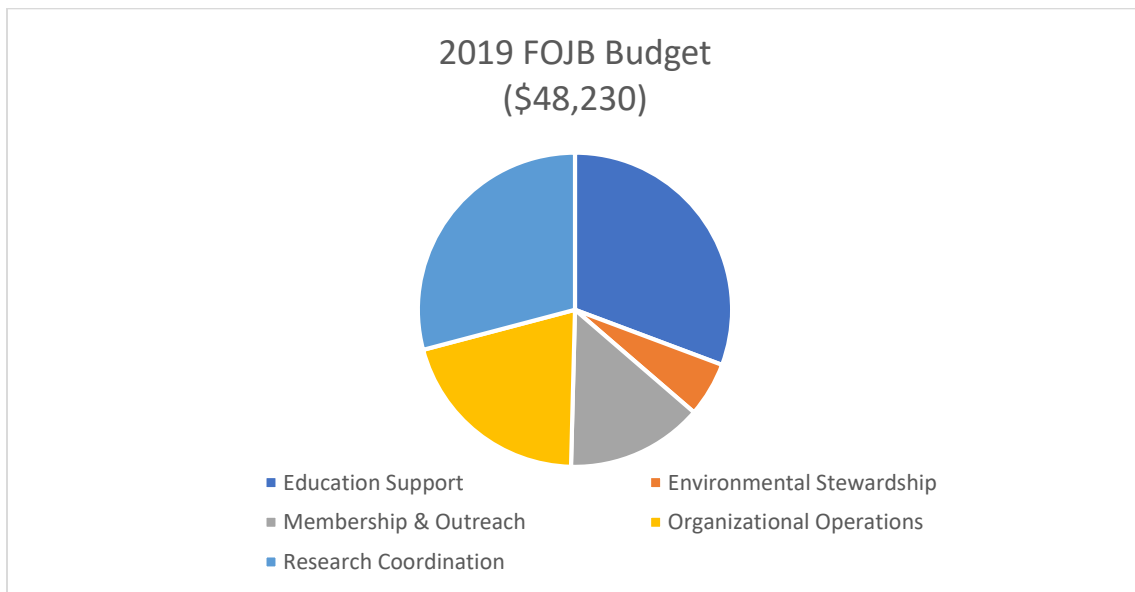
A particularly significant development was the acquisition of the Jug Bay Farm Preserve, a 307-acre parcel of land and property to be managed by the Friends under a lease agreement with the Anne Arundel County. An action plan has been developed to facilitate its incorporation with the Sanctuary, enhance habitat quality by conservation land management, foster public stewardship through field demonstrations and education programs, and provide field and laboratory research facilities for scientists and the teaching profession. With this addition, the Sanctuary now embraces nearly 1,000 acres of conserved land, marsh and water.

In the Sanctuary proper, volunteers have assisted with long-term ecological studies while gaining in-depth knowledge about climate change, water quality fluctuations and the functions of wetland ecosystems. Other studies included monitoring vernal pools and avian populations in forest and wetland habitat and box turtle telemetry.

To help increase the impact of FOJB support, the Board of the Friends have realigned committees dedicated to financial planning and fundraising, communications and outreach, membership and recruitment, and strategic planning and programming. These committees have forged action plans and meet regularly to ensure their implementation and continue to advocate for funding and programs that advance conservation of the Sanctuary.

The Friends receive funds to support the programs at the Sanctuary coming from:

- Membership dues
- Donations
- Grants
- Fundraisers
- Sale of merchandise



For the Future

With a constantly changing suite of challenges, the Board has attempted to raise additional funds in line with a 3-year Action Plan. However, the Board requires a person with fundraising experience to secure these funds. In addition, the Board seeks a new Treasurer. The Board is also searching for someone who can act as advocate in protecting the Sanctuary and its surroundings.

For the immediate future, the following actions are to be undertaken with the Friends' support:

- Addition of a new network of trails to the Jug Bay Farm Preserve;
- Plant invasive species control;
- Assistance in the management/operation of the Jug Bay Farm Preserve;
- Enhancement of pollinator habitat;
- Expansion of summer student research internships

Call for action

The Friends have worked hard to enhance the conservation of the Sanctuary and much has been achieved. However, much remains to be done to address the impacts of climate change upon the marsh, restoring portions of the Jug Bay Farm Preserve, advocating for protection of the Patuxent Watershed, and educating the general public. We thank the members of the Friends of Jug Bay for their help in all these endeavors.

The Board of Directors

A Board of Directors meets every month to help raise and disburse funds and monitor issues of potential significance to the Sanctuary.

In April of every year, the Friends of Jug Bay holds its Annual Meeting at which an Annual Report is given and Board members and officers are elected. The meeting also features a speaker and the Jug Bay Award, given to a person whose active involvement in the Jug Bay region has contributed to a better understanding and appreciation to the Sanctuary's' unique ecosystems.

Executive Board of Directors

Tor Bjerknes, President

Peggy Hartman, Treasurer

Elaine Friebele, Secretary

Board Members

Blythe Alexander

Gwen Brewer

Judy Hartman

Darcy Herman

Al Tucker