

Greetings, members!

Hello, summer greetings and salutations, members! At Robinson, the flowers of summer are native, gorgeous, bold and vibrant; tall, ephemeral waves of gloriously effervescent color... swelling, swaying, dancing merrily, sprouting and growing faster than the rising radiant temperatures. We encourage you to visit, dare you to bring all your senses to bear, thoroughly enjoy the sights, smells and sounds, feel summer emerging and emanating here at Robinson. You can spend an entire afternoon "propping" with friends! Our industrious staff has been mulching, weeding, gardening and planting, staking, sawing wood, creating enclosures, wood carvings and musical instruments, building, refinishing and painting, all in order to greet and welcome you, our members and friends, throughout the lazy, languishing days of the season.

Pam Reese

Community Liaison, Robinson Nature Center

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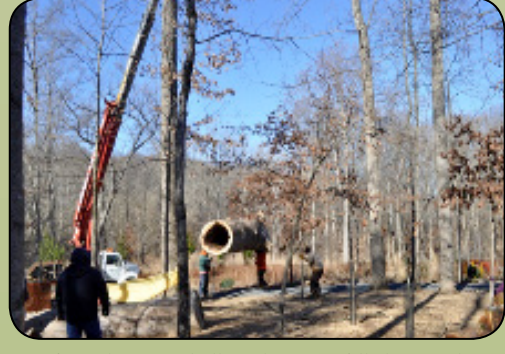
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Nature in Bloom



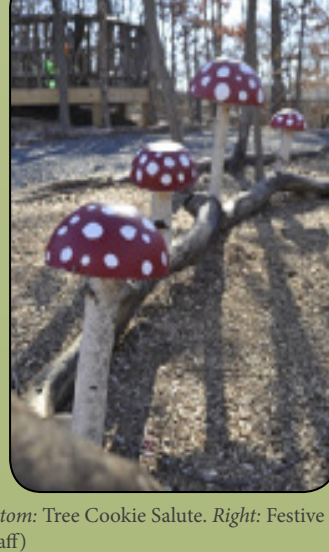
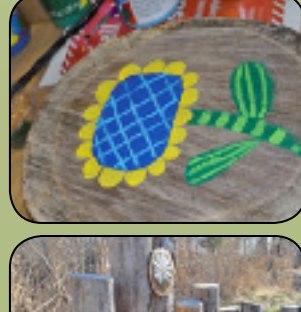
Left: Bee balm
Middle: Purple Coneflower
Right: Coreopsis
(Photos by Pam Reese)

Nature Place



Left: Un-logging a hollowed out tree felled at PFI this past winter and repurposed for Nature Place (Photo by Meagan Downey). Right: Teamwork Log Tug (Photo by Marisa Olszewski)

Our recently added outdoor interactive exploration area, Nature Place, has increased in popularity with visitors of all ages, enticing guests to stay at Robinson considerably longer when they do visit. My coworker, Sarah Causey, designed and painted many of the festive elements featured in Nature Place. She's pictured above helping with a log tug and below applying her artistic finishing touches to "tree cookies".



Left: Sarah Causey making "tree cookies". Center top: Tree Cookie Art. Center bottom: Tree Cookie Salute. Right: Festive Toad Stools. (Photos by Pam Reese & RNC Staff)

Children's Garden

The vegetables and flowers are growing in the "Children's Garden". Varieties of herbs and native plants are established and thriving atop our "Green Roof Garden" as well.



Above: Children's Garden

Simpsonville Mill Ruins

The Simpsonville Mill Ruins is easier to access now with paved trails and interpretive displays leading to our very own historical gem down by the Middle Patuxent River.



Left: Kiosk at mill site. Right: Simpsonville Mill Ruins.

Gift Shop

We've added numerous indoor attractions and amenities as well.

Our gift shop continues to expand with eco-friendly, educational items to satiate restless, curious, inquisitive minds and to encourage outdoor, physical activity. Hmmm...which option sounds more appealing to you - taking the children inside of a mall to search for games and gifts or bringing them for a visit to Robinson to forage for those items, learn something new about our natural world and get some exercise, fresh air and sunshine in the process?



Above: RNC Gift Shop

Nature Murals

Our Children's Discovery Room has more animals on our tank wall and, thanks to the talents of RNC staffer Helen Metzman, a newly painted animal habitat mural adorns and surrounds the tanks holding our turtles, snakes and salamanders.



Above: Animal habitat murals

Did you know that the Northern U.S. is the center or "hot spot" for salamander biodiversity? We invite you to come and learn more about this wonderful, mysterious, ever changing planet we all share. "Regarding" our planet and others in our solar system, you won't want to miss out on an opportunity to discover more about the sky above us. Opportunities abound, check out some of the new films airing in our NatureSphere Planetarium. Robinson is also one of the featured locations to visit for Howard County Recreation & Parks "Find Your Park" initiative: www.howardcountymd.gov/FindYourParkHoCo.

We're wishing you a great, safe, healthy, happy and "green" summer and hope Robinson is the first place you'll consider sharing and introducing to your out of town guests. We just might become the "natural default location" for your children when they bemoan boredom... yes indeed we have an "APP" ("A Perfect Place") for that!!

REESE-SOURCEFULLY YOURS,

Pam Reese

Robinson Nature Center
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-0400

Reader Remarks/Comments?
Contact Pam Reese, 410-313-0673 or
pamreese@howardcountymd.gov

