

November 2016



*A Burbling Little Creek and its Amazing and Loving People*

## **Year End Letter from the President**

Dear Friends of Sligo Creek,

More than 2.5 years into being President of FOSC, I have a better sense of the Creek, the Park, and especially of you. I fell in love with the Park the Fall of 1984, which was the most beautiful I can recall. I live along the creek and look out onto it every day, making me one lucky dog. **Many of you share my love, and I hope you'll join me in donating to help the Park.**

I'm so proud that we measure and monitor our Stream and Park in an effort to understand and improve it in more effective ways. Our Water Quality Committee folks measure key aspects of its pollutant loads to compare them, and to help track down possible sewer leaks. Our Water WatchDog folks train people to catch pipe breaks, dumping, etc., to nip them in the bud before significant damage occurs. The Stormwater Committee is working with the County's Dept. of Environmental Protection to help improve the land surrounding the Park where runoff adversely affects the water quality. We report on interesting animals and plants we see and where we find them. We measure, remove, and where possible recycle trash from the Park and Creek. We work with Montgomery Parks, and are starting to work with Prince George's Parks, to make more meadows where possible, plant more trees, and monitor conditions.

We're now embarking on a new website – more responsive on mobile devices and generally more accessible. This is a big important step for us and for you in your participation with us in our work and use of information. It comes with a significant but critical cost to implement.

**Today I'd like to ask you to participate more fully in the life of the Park and of FOSC—by making a donation to Friends of Sligo Creek, by joining an FOSC committee, or by committing to do something more in and with the Creek this coming year.** Here's a link where you can [donate](#), and where you can join the [FOSC listserv](#). If you are not yet a member, we encourage you to [sign up to receive our e-newsletter](#) and periodic mailings, and join the FOSC Community. We don't charge dues, but we do ask for donations at year's end, to keep this volunteer group going. The time is now, perhaps even more urgently as we approach a changing political environment nationally. We ask at least for a \$25 donation, but if you can stretch that it would be deeply appreciated.

One of the things that pleases me most are the strides we are making to include more sectors of the community into appreciation of the Park and to work on it. From running workshops at local schools, to diversifying our board and establishing a Latino Outreach committee, and most recently, helping collaboratively to create the first Festival del Rio Anacostia at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, we are making important moves in these areas. The Park and Creek belong to all of us, and it will take all of our help to make it healthier and more amazing.

Many are the people who tell me how much they've learned from walking the creek, reading the natural history postings and poetry on the FOSC kiosks, going on our walks, participating in our programs, and helping pull invasive plants. We are joined by our love of Sligo Creek and the Park, and we appreciate your amazing efforts to share this love. **We hope that you will assist the Friends of Sligo Creek with a monetary donation to better improve your Park experience.**

Yours on behalf of the Park and Creek,

Kit Gage

President