



Fall 2021

Dear Friends of the Friends Wilderness Center,

Early this spring, 30 children and their parents from Friends meetings around the region escaped the restrictions of the pandemic to gather for a day at the center. The woods were filled with laughter and joy as the kids scooped tadpoles from the ponds, hiked up to the treehouse, and had lunch at an overlook of the Shenandoah Valley.

This experience captured the essence of what Friends Wilderness Center is: an oasis in a desert of crammed schedules, social media, and crisis upon crisis in the news. A place of reflection and a sense of wonder in the tranquility of nature. Hiking, camping, exploration, and life enhancing nature-based programs.

These experiences would not be possible without your unwavering commitment and support.

**In gratitude, a generous donor has offered a challenge grant that we hope will inspire you to invest in the Friends Wilderness Center's vision of conservation and spiritual renewal. Every dollar you contribute between now and December 31, 2021, will be matched 1:1 up to \$15,000. We would like to invite you today to help us meet this challenge.**

With a new general manager and impressive progress on the China Folk House Retreat by Sidwell Friends students over the summer, we have begun a new era. Along with supporting new programs and stewardship of our property, your gift, doubled by the challenge grant, will be used to undertake urgent and extensive repairs on Niles cabin. Repairing the cabin is fundamental to our mission of providing spiritual programs, overnight hospitality, and a residence for Kimberly Benson, our general manager, with her family.

**Perhaps at no time in recent memory has it been more important for you to take advantage of this great opportunity to double your impact by helping us meet this challenge.**

You can make your gift in several ways:

- By a check payable to Friends Wilderness Center, sent to Friends Wilderness Center, 305 Friends Way, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.
- Online at [www.Friendswilderness.org/support0.aspx](http://www.Friendswilderness.org/support0.aspx). If you decide to send money through PayPal, we would deeply appreciate it if you choose the "Send Money to Family and Friends" option when prompted. This ensures 100% of your donation goes to Friends Wilderness Center.

Thank you again for your support.

Peace and Light,

The Board of Friends Wilderness Center

*In offering this challenge grant, we were inspired by the generosity of Henry and Mary Cushing Niles of Stony Run Meeting, who offered the Friends Wilderness Meditation Center use of the land in the 1970s. We invite all those who love today's Friends Wilderness Center to join us in honoring their gift and fulfilling their vision."*

*- Challenge Grant Donor*