

## Fall Festival 2011: The Tenacity of the Turtle

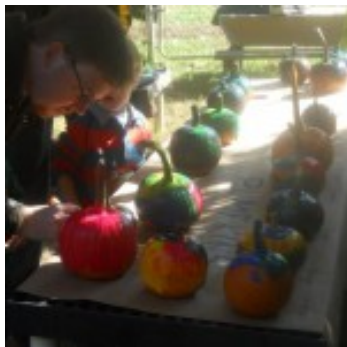
Dear Frog Pond “Top Toads” and Friends,

It is time for us to prepare for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Frog Pond Fall Festival to be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am – 12 pm at Frog Pond. We are very pleased with the success of Fall Festival 2010 and we are now seeking sponsors for this year’s event. In addition to launching our new school slogan of “The Natural Choice,” we are also inviting the sponsors to celebrate a specific energy that has graced our property since last year.



“The Tenacity of the Turtle” is our way of recognizing the slow and steady progress toward our inspiring goals. We have had many teachings from the Turtle this year. In May, a mother snapper chose the top of Toad Mountain as a location to lay her eggs, which the children were fortunate enough to witness. Also this Spring, Yertle and Fiona, the 18-year-old red-cheeked sliders took up residence in the Frog Classroom. Not to be forgotten, we have also enjoyed the presence of a box turtle who shares food with the cats in the barn each morning.

As you know, our rich history in Native American tradition draws us into the wisdom of the land so it’s fitting that many believe the Turtle represents the need to be adaptable and steady to thrive throughout the cycles of life, which is certainly the story of our seasons at Frog Pond! We welcome you to join us as sponsors who celebrate tenacity of the Frog Pond Family and thus, the Tenacity of the Turtle!



**Families enjoying the pumpkins!**

Last year we had a fun morning full of homemade ethnic foods; pumpkin and apple tea breads and cider, pumpkin decorating; story telling; singing and tire rolling down Toad Mountain. Our next door neighbors, Friends of Huntley Meadows, sponsored a morning walk through the park in our honor. It was a beautiful day.

From the sponsorship and donations, we were able to erect two wonderful outdoor classrooms and two new swing sets that have been used continuously since their installation. In addition, we were able to uncover our worn out hardwood floors and refinish them. The oak floors added natural warmth to the Tadpole classrooms. The downstairs Frog Classroom was reconfigured to give more classroom space and more storage space by installing wall hung cabinets. The newly refinished tile flooring and new media sink have added to the classroom as well.

We are once again going to close Frog Pond for one week in August to do more “big things” and we need your help to sponsor these items that tuition cannot cover. Our wish list includes:

- A new bay window for the Tadpole classroom which will have windows that operate and are safe for Toddlers to enjoy while growing plants in the window sill and watching and listening to the fire trucks when they go by (a big event in the day of a toddler). \$6,200
- Replace 50+ year old windows in nap room \$2,800

- Replace windows in dining/art room \$1,900
- Buff and recoat oak floors to maintain the beauty from last year' refinishing \$1000
- Roof work including replacing gutters and downspouts, replacing soffit, gutter board, and cove molding \$10,000
- New roof for goat barn and pen that will be a smaller version of last year's outdoor classrooms which are guaranteed for heavy snow and high winds. (\$800)
- Moveable chicken coop and pen for our chickens and environmental teaching. Coop is moved every few days to fertilize the earth and to give chickens fresh grass and bugs to eat (\$977).

We welcome, wish for, and seek your assistance for these much needed items. As in last year's sponsorships, we offer different levels of giving and will provide a plaque with your name on the specific item that your sponsorship provides for our lively children. Our aim is to have a safe and natural environment for the children and the animal friends cared for by the children. We cannot do this without the help from the community. Tuition covers most of our operational expenses but it did not cover the \$4,600 that we recently paid to replace the second of two original air conditioner units. This money had been earmarked for our chicken coop and goat barn roof among other things so we now ask for your help in keeping the animals cozy, warm and dry this coming winter.

Thanks to those who provided the wonderful additions to our program last year. We rely on our Frog Friends to have the "Tenacity of the Turtle," and allow us to continue to nourish the Frog Pond Family and the community as *the natural choice for early learning* in Alexandria!

Sincerely,

Pam Tinker and the Frog Pond Family

If you would like to once again support the important work that we are doing, please circle the level of sponsorship and return the below portion with your tax-deductible donation to Frog Pond, 7204 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306 or make your donation through Paypal on our website [www.frogpondkids.org](http://www.frogpondkids.org)

(Detach and Circle Level of Sponsorship. Please include name as you wish it to be printed so that we may properly acknowledge you and/or your business)

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone (optional)

Sponsorship levels are as follows:

Your Favorite                      \$10,000 or greater                      You get to name your favorite wetland critter!

Dragonflies                      \$5,000 to 9,999

Bull Frogs                      \$3,000 to \$4,999

Leap Frogs                      \$2,000 to \$3,999

Top Toads                      \$1,000 to \$1,999

Crickets                      \$200 to \$999



A Child's Recreation of a Turtle