

Tree Tops - President's Message

by **Nathalie Noon**, HOA Board President

Dear Community:

It was great to see so many of you at the annual picnic in September, including some new residents to DuFief. The weather was perfect! The kids loved the moon bounce and had fun exploring the new playground. If you didn't have a chance to attend, please take a stroll down to the pond to check it out. We plan on adding some benches and picnic tables. We will also have an Ice Cream Social in the Spring so stay tuned for that.

WSSC has completed their work on the Silent Valley portion of the community and the roads should be repaved shortly. Thank you for your patience, I know it has been a bumpy ride as they complete the repairs.

Montgomery County is going to start evaluating traffic patterns within the neighborhood in response to resident concerns. They will be trying to figure out ways to make the neighborhood safer, especially for pedestrians. If you have any concerns and/or ideas, please feel free to let me know and I'll be happy to pass them on. Before any major changes are implemented, the County will meet with the community.

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of fall.

Nathalie Noon

(See more photos on page 7)



**The Annual Homeowners Meeting
will be held at the DuFief School
Thursday, February 21, 2019
Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm—Meeting at 7:30 pm
Please email board@dufief.org to RSVP for the Dinner**

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Special points of Interest:

- *Walking the Camino de Santiago*
- *Raising Monarch Butterflies*
- *Pumpkin-Maple Custard Recipe*
- *DuFief Community Picnic and New Playground*

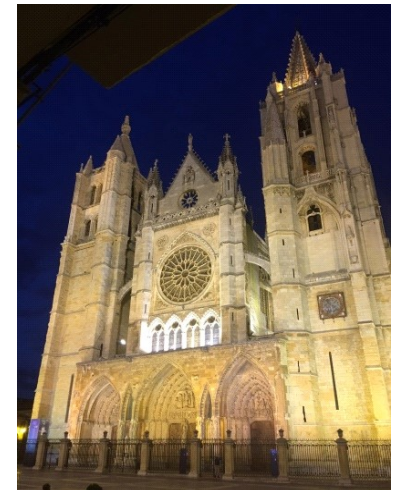
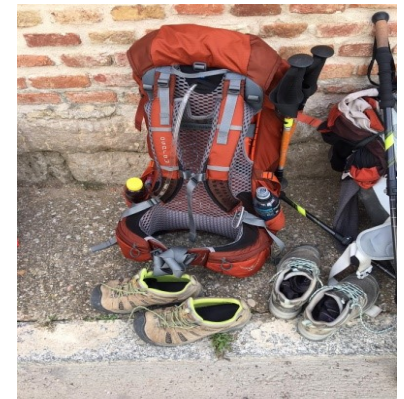


For those who enjoy walking ...

by Lee Cunningham



I wanted to start my 6th decade with a “Can Do” experience, so I walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Martin Sheen made a movie about it called “The Way” which can be seen on Netflix. I left May 10th and returned June 27th. The experience far surpassed my expectations. I walked 660 miles, averaging about 15 miles a day for 40 days. The weather was perfect, the landscape, architecture, and cathedrals were gorgeous, the food was great and the other “pilgrims” were a wonderful international bunch (Below I am in blue . The couple on my right is Canadian. We met on the Camino and became friends.) It was so exciting to just live in the moment. People often shared their hearts as we walked along, but other times I was alone with my thoughts just enjoying the view, Storks and Cuckoo birds. We started in France and walked over the Pyrenees Mountains, slept in big dorm rooms full of bunks (the one shown was in a Convent). My 20 lb. pack was all I had. We followed yellow arrows across Spain, we ate hearty “pilgrim meals”, we learned to sleep through the snoring of others, and we walked through ancient, sleeping villages at 5:30am.



continued on page 3



The bold green line on the map shows the path. This salad was on the “pilgrim” menu daily. It was the little scenes that I liked the most. Like this nun who stepped out to look after the children who had just run out the door, a window full of baked goods, or the first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean after 600 miles of walking.



I highly recommend this adventure to anyone who loves walking, meeting people and being submerged in another culture. You don't have to do the whole thing. You could just pick a section of it and see if you like it. You don't have to stay in dorm rooms. There are private rooms for people along the way. The path has been walked since the 12th century, so lodging and food are plentiful and well organized. There are several guide books available and many YouTube videos on how to prepare and what to bring. I recommend going in May and June because it is cooler and less crowded.

Announcement—DuFief Welcoming Committee

The DuFief Welcoming Committee needs a new chairperson. The committee delivers a packet of information concerning the area, along with a potted plant and (home-baked) treats. They make themselves available to answer questions and give support. If you would like to help with officially welcoming new neighbors,

Please contact Carolyn Carlson, the retiring chair of the committee,
at carolyncarlson4@aol.com.

Building a strong and caring community is everyone's business. Won't you make it your business too?

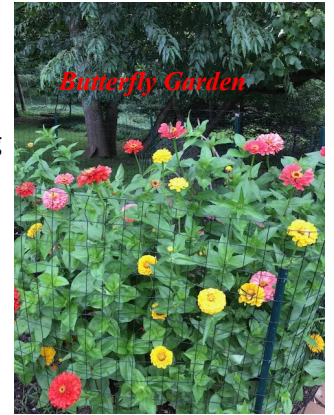
Monarchs in DuFief — by Robert Lessey



Caterpillars at different stages of growth

There are certain areas nearby where deer might be able to survive without causing much reaction from us humans, but probably not at the population level that currently exists. The only thing in my yard that has not been eaten by deer since my moving here from Baltimore City, has been daffodils, planted when I first arrived, three years ago. Gardening has been part of my life, even in Baltimore, for as long as I can remember, as has been an interest in the natural world. As a way of dealing with a sense of disappointment that a garden was not meant to be in my new life in retirement in DuFief, I took an interest in the things that were already growing in my yard, such as certain grasses and mosses, that deer did not seem to bother. But deer will try anything once. A young milkweed plant that seemed to have sprung up overnight was chewed to the ground the next morning.

Defiantly, I decided to grow my own milkweed in the early spring, intending in May to protect it with a simple wire fence. Maybe I could attract a few butterflies, and monarchs in particular. Zinnias, grown from seed as well, add color, and nectar for the butterflies. The book, "The Wild Braid," by Stanley Kunitz, inspired a degree of passionate determination to the project of creating a garden.



Butterfly Garden

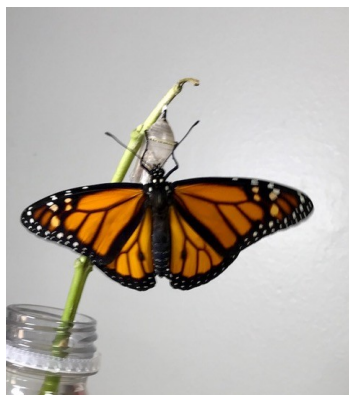


Chrysalis about to hatch

In early July, the Lake Roland Nature Center near a friend's home in Baltimore had on display a variety of caterpillars, including monarchs. A conversation with the ranger about butterfly gardens, led unexpectedly to my being offered two tiny caterpillars. There were evidently plenty to share. That was the beginning of an adventure. I have been told many times since then that first graders these days are provided an opportunity to watch the process of the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. What I have been doing is nothing new, it seems. Why is a man in his seventies engaging in such an elementary pursuit? I had never had the experience, myself, however, and now have the time, patience, and curiosity. The richness and complexity, not to mention beauty, of what I have discovered, over the past year, and especially since July, could never

have been anticipated, and certainly not by passively watching a tank in a classroom as a schoolboy, or even at a nature center as an adult. Those could never have held my attention long, in the first place, or brought me into contact with the many people who have similar interests, knowledge and expertise.

Seeking out milkweed far and wide, protecting the plants by gently scraping off aphids, looking at the egg hatching into a very tiny caterpillar that increases in size a thousand-fold, and then becomes a chrysalis from which the butterfly emerges weeks later was a profound experience for me, of meditative presence, loving connection, daily discovery of beings so remarkable and different from ourselves, reminding me of the wonders of nature and the privilege of being alive to be awed by it.



*Male Monarch
Notice the two dark dots,
which are scent glands.*

The staff of the Butterfly Garden at Brookside Gardens near Silver Spring, for example, give a glimpse of the kind of dedication, care and support by individuals and institutions that is required to hold the attention of a few visiting parents and their children, some of whom might someday grow into adults who can share in the preservation of our natural world. The staffs of several nature centers, including Brookside, and our nearby Seneca Creek State Park, are exemplary of these same qualities.

By the end of the summer, I had released more than two dozen adult monarch butterflies into the world. They have given me, in return, a story and a life experience that is still unfolding.



Under the screen cover

Brooklyn in DuFief

by Steve and Ashley Weissenburger

Like many DuFief residents, we enjoy taking our pet outside for a walk. In our case, however, our pet is a cat. Brooklyn, who recently celebrated her first birthday, is a Bengal cat. Bengals were developed from crossing Asian leopard cats with domestic cats in the 1970s. They're known for being playful, talkative and affectionate.

We've been walking Brooklyn on a leash since shortly after we adopted her at three months old. Thanks to the unusual sight of Brooklyn on her leash, we've met more neighbors and have chatted with quite a few delivery drivers – one of whom stopped to ask if she was a baby leopard, because of her exotic markings!

Brooklyn is very friendly and enjoys meeting new people. She also loves to "stalk" dogs, crouching down low and moving stealthily toward canine neighbors out for a casual stroll. A typical cat, she enjoys chasing squirrels and climbing trees too. Inside the house, Brooklyn often oversees her kingdom from high atop the kitchen cabinets.

If you walk by Good Meadow Court and see us outside, please stop to say hello!



Recipe — Pumpkin-Maple Custards *From Tufts University Nutrition Letter*

Finish your Thanksgiving dinner on a lighter note with these easy pumpkin custards. With their silky texture and fragrant spices, they feature the best part of a pumpkin pie. Since most of the saturated fat in the traditional holiday dessert is found in the pastry, you trim fat and calories significantly by focusing on the custard filling. In this recipe, maple syrup forms a delicious sauce, giving the custards an exquisite finish – no one will miss the crust!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 Tbsp maple syrup | ½ tsp ground nutmeg |
| 2 large eggs | ½ tsp ground ginger |
| 3 large egg whites | 1/8 tsp salt |
| 1/3 cup sugar | 1 tsp vanilla extract |
| 1 cup unseasoned canned pumpkin puree | 1 cup low-fat 1% milk or soymilk |
| 1 1/1 tsp ground cinnamon | |



Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Put a kettle of water on to boil for the water bath. Line a roasting pan with a folded kitchen towel. Spoon 1 Tbsp maple syrup into each of six 6-oz. (3/4 cup) custard cups.

Whisk eggs, egg whites and sugar in large bowl. Add pumpkin, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, salt and vanilla; whisk until smooth and blended. Gently whisk in milk. Divide pumpkin mixture among prepared custard cups. Place custard cups in prepared roasting pan. Pour enough boiling water to come one-quarter of the way up sides of custard cups. Place roasting pan in oven. Bake, uncovered, until custards are set, 55 to 65 minutes. (Centers should not quiver when cups are shaken.) Transfer custard cups to a rack and let cool. Cover and refrigerate until chilled, at least 1 hour.

Serve custards in cups or unmold as follows: Run a knife around edges of custards. Invert a dessert plate over each custard. Grasping the plate and custard cup firmly, turn over and give custard cup a quick downward shake. The custard should slip onto plate. If it remains in mold, shake again.

Yield: 6 (1/2) cup servings. 160 calories per serving.

Before doing exterior work to your home, please go to

www.dufief.org **Architectural Review**

to apply for prior written approval for additions, alterations, and/or improvements

When you are trying to decide what material to use for re-siding your house, or what type of new front door or garage door would go with the mid-century modern design of DuFief houses, you might want to look at the pertinent articles that have been published in various Readwood issues. For example,

Summer 2013: *On the Philosophy of the DuFief Architecture*, page 4

Winter 2014: *Door Styles in DuFief*: page 4

Summer 2015: *Contemporary Doors* : page 7

Winter 2015: *Siding*: page 4

Winter 2016: *Celebrate Design*: page 4

Keep in mind that wood siding and fiber cement siding have greater structural value than vinyl and are biodegradable. Unlike vinyl, they can also be repainted. Colonial or Victorian front doors are incongruent with our modern design, and so are raised-panel garage doors. Any shade of white detracts from the original intent of the appearance of our wooded neighborhood; our houses should have an earth-tone color. Reading these articles will focus your decision-making on what maintains (or restores) the character of our very special neighborhood. Go to www.dufief.org, Our Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report on Annual Assessments

by **Brian Frank**, *DuFief HOA Treasurer*

Dues Notices for 2019 are expected to be sent out by email in early January.

If you have not provided us with an email address, your invoice will be sent by first-class mail.

As of November 5, 2018, the Board has collected annual dues from 291 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 95 %). The annual assessments that we use to maintain our common areas in order to keep the DuFief neighborhood a popular area for homebuyers **ARE NOT OPTIONAL**. Every household must pay the annual dues.

Any homeowners who have not paid their dues are subject to potential lawsuit, which will include a request for interest and attorneys fees and may result in a lien on the property.

We have been very successful in collecting dues. All assessments have been collected for 2010 and all years prior. There is one homeowner who has not paid dues for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017; there are four homeowners who have not paid 2017 dues.

The Board does not enjoy having to take neighbors to court. However, the homeowner assessments are not any different from having to pay real estate taxes on your property.

To those of you who have paid your annual assessments in a timely manner, "THANK YOU". For those of you who have not yet paid the 2017 dues in the amount of \$207.62, please do so as soon as possible in order to avoid additional costs, and a potential lawsuit.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your annual assessments, please feel free to contact me at 240-606-5100.

Brian Frank

***We have collected
95 % of 2018 dues.***

DuFief Community Picnic — and New Playground



Photos courtesy of James Noon

The big attraction at this year's Annual DuFief Picnic was the new playground. The kids loved it and so did their parents. It had taken some effort on the part of some of the Board members to search for and decide on the right design, the right price, and having it installed in time for the picnic. Nathalie Noon and Betty Ball spent many hours to take care of all that. William Washington organized and helped with the preparation of the site. A special Thank You to Nathalie and Betty and William.

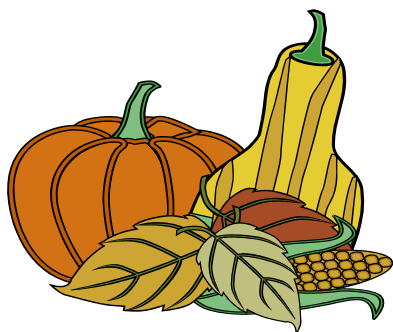
And, of course, we also appreciate the work done by Pam Weld and Betty Ball and others to take care of everything else that needed to be done to make the picnic a success, such as scheduling the band, ordering the food, setting up the tables, etc. And thank you to the neighbors who stayed at the end to help with the clean-up.

DuFief Homes Association

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www.dufief.org



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Announcement – Welcoming Committee

The DuFief Welcoming Committee needs a new chairperson. The committee delivers a packet of information concerning the area, along with a potted plant and (home-baked) treats. They make themselves available to answer questions and give support. On the average, six new neighbors move into DuFief per year.

If you would like to help with officially welcoming new neighbors, please contact Carolyn Carlson, the retiring chair of the committee, at carolyncarlson4@aol.com. Building a strong and caring community is everyone's business. Won't you make it your business too?

Note: For the small number of homeowners who do not have email, the *Readwood* was printed at cost as a community service by **Alpha Graphics Shady Grove** in Gaithersburg (agshadygrove.com).



The DuFief Pond photographed by Jean-Louis Staudenmann