



# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

## EARTH DAY 2009: *Remembering Chip Fawcett (1929-2008)*

*“Rather than calling attention to anything he had done, Chip chose to focus on what was best for the community, the parks, and our city. He got a lot done and achieved all kinds of transformational goals. He wanted to make sure it wasn't just about making a place “pretty.” It had to help and serve the people. His legacy is far greater than most will ever know, and will live on for generations. We can think of no leader in DC who was as able as Chip to put aside his own ego and to keep his eyes on the prize.”* STEVE COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIR. PARKS & PEOPLE

Since its founding on April 22, 1970, EARTH DAY has been dedicated to educating people about and preserving the environment and continues to serve as inspiration for good works and community activities. FBN cannot think of a more fitting way to commemorate Earth Day 2009 than to celebrate Chip Fawcett, a friend and Foggy Bottom neighbor. Chip's vision and perseverance resulted in the renovation and renewal—in partnership with the community—of many, many parks and programs that now flourish and serve District neighborhoods

rather than cripple them.

“He represented ordinary folks across the city,” says Steve Coleman who, along with many others over the decades, was mentored by Fawcett. “Chip advocated making the Potomac and Anacostia waterways accessible for public use, not just public viewing. He helped create Georgetown's Waterfront Park as well as championing Thompson Boathouse and the Anacostia Rowing Society. He was instrumental in getting rowing firmly established on the Anacostia River. Each program is part of a consistent, coherent vision for land and water-front development.

*(continued on next page)*

## CALENDAR

### MONDAY APRIL 27, 7–9 PM POETRY READINGS BY LOCAL POETS & OPEN MIKE FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH.

The WE Branch Library will celebrate National Poetry Month on Monday, April 27, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with readings by three local area poets: Kim Roberts, Holly Bass and Dan Vera. There also will be an open mike. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: Bill Turner, 202-724-8698

### TUESDAY 28, FBA MONTHLY MEETING

SPEAKER: Jack Evans, DC Councilman Ward 2 Chair, Committee on Finance & Revenue  
7 pm social 7:30 pm speaker.

St. Stephen Martyr Church Parish Hall.  
25th & Penn Ave.  
(Enter on 25th St)

### TWO SUMMER 1-WEEK FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

**Forestry fellowship:** Casey Trees is offering two high school scholarships to the *Natural Resources Careers Conference* presented by the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. To be eligible, student applicants must be District of Columbia residents and at least be entering the ninth grade.

The camp is in Garrett County, Maryland, from July 19-25, 2009.

Please contact Christina Escobar with questions at [cescobar@caseytrees.org](mailto:cescobar@caseytrees.org) or **202-349-1896**. The application deadline is Thursday, April 30, 2009, and can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/nrcareersconf.html>

### FOGGY BOTTOM GARDEN CLUB KICKS OFF 2009 YEAR

For the last five years the Garden Club has helped beautify the Foggy Bottom Historic District neighborhood by planting flower barrels and bushes.

In 2009 the Garden Club plans to expand its activities to include cleaning-up the tree boxes along K Street and the park at the end of I Street.

Volunteer your time or make a donation (\$25-\$250).

Call **202-338-2471** or send donations to

Foggy Bottom Garden Club, 909 26th Street NW, Wash DC 20037.

**Note: the 26th Street Park clean up day is Sat May 23rd from 10 am to 12 noon**

\*The Foggy Bottom Garden Club is an independent group of neighbors in Foggy Bottom.

### THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Foggy Bottom Association  
Post Office Box 58087  
Washington, DC 20037-8087  
Editor-in-Chief: Susan Trinter  
[foggybottomnews@yahoo.com](mailto:foggybottomnews@yahoo.com)

The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

#### FBA Officers:

PRESIDENT – Joy Howell  
VICE PRESIDENT – Jacqueline G. Lemire  
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius  
TREASURER – Bille Hougart  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – David Hertzfeldt

#### FBA Board of Directors:

Rita Aid, Dusty Horwitt, Donald W. Kreuzer,  
Lawrence G. Mrozinski, Greg Snyder  
Ex-Officio: Ron Cocome (Immediate Past President);  
Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

## Chip Fawcett (cont'd)

The vision is simple and humble, as well as grand and transformational. Chip approached the community's desires and needs with a "why not" attitude, maintaining excitement for green space, and he found over the years that so many critical urban challenges were met by bringing the parks alive. In partnership with Parks & People, the community experienced a 99% reduction in the District's most crime-ridden and dangerous park, Malcolm X.

Thanks to Chip's legacy, Parks & People (P&P) is thriving. Coleman says it's been an exciting

time for P&P—which is expanding—and they need help with a number of opportunities. They are converting their headquarters into a museum—the first in the world—for the urban parks movement which is worldwide. "It's not well-known because we are busy "doing," says Coleman.

There is the green jobs training program P&P is starting that will be called the "DC Green Corps," as well as the purchase of a storefront facility and one-time nightclub, where DC native Marvin Gaye first performed in his Deanwood neighborhood,

at the time one of the most impoverished communities in the District. P&P has acquired vacant lots to start gardens north of Columbia Heights, and has awarded 18 grants to provide technical assistance. And P&P is creating an urban farm in Ward 8 off Oxon Run. Each springs from a simple idea: Parks should serve people.

Chip's vision and rationality is sorely missed. He will always be remembered for the key roles he played in the successes of these urban parks, programs, and moreover, the people that were helped by them.

—S. TRINTER

**ARTHUR "CHIP" H. FAWCETT, JR.**, president of Washington Parks & People for 12 years and a leader in DC parks, recreation, and planning for nearly half a century, died November 23, 2008. An attorney with unsurpassed urban planning experience, he worked internationally and regionally where he developed the first master plan for Anne Arundel County, which is still in use after 40 years. Chip worked as the Chief of Advance Planning for the National Capital Planning Commission beginning in the 1950's, later serving as the chief of policy and planning for the DC Department of Parks and Recreation for more than a decade. He also served as co-chair of the Transition Sub-Committee on Parks and Recreation for two mayors, Anthony Williams and Adrian Fenty.



*Chip at 17 rowing—a life-long love. At 19, as a member of the Princeton Varsity team, he competed at the British Henley Regatta, twice equaling the record for the course, to retain the Thames Challenge Cup for Princeton. The Cup and victorious Team appeared on a July 1949 cover of LOOK Magazine.*

centers—the Josephine Butler Parks Center and the Riverside Center—for community park revitalization, advocated for increased public and private parks investment, helped launch community park partnerships across the District, and mobilized over 100,000 volunteers for park reclamation in every corner of the city.

Chip was integrally involved in Washington Parks & People and Organization for Anacostia Rowing Society until his death last November. "The Parks and People" website <http://www.washingtonparks.net/>

CONTRIBUTIONS IN CHIP'S HONOR CAN BE SENT TO:  
**Washington Parks & People, Arthur H. Fawcett, Jr. Memorial Fund**  
 2437 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009