



# A word from Wildwood

The goal of Friends of Wildwood is to preserve and support Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

## Paxton Creek Streambank Restoration

The PA Department of Environmental Protection recently funded a streambank stabilization project in Wildwood to protect the foundation of the Olewine Nature Center from being undermined by stream-caused erosion. Easily observed from the Nature Center bird viewing windows, a 200-foot section of Paxton Creek's deeply eroded streambank has been restored.

Hemlock modified wood cribbing and limestone rock were the primary materials used to stabilize the streambank. Additional deep-water pockets, to enhance fish habitat, were incorporated under the wood cribbing. A native riparian seed mixture, coconut fiber fabric and biodegradable biotextile matting were anchored on top of the re-established slope. Flyway Excavating, Inc., based out of Mount Joy, performed the construction under the oversight of Bill Kcenich, PADEP Stream Improvement Program. This publicly bid project totaled \$55,000.

The completed project is intended to blend in with the Park's surroundings pending the establishment of native vegetation. However, below the surface important erosion protection is also being provided by over 350 tons of large rock buried in the new streambank.

Bill Kcenich noted that the project took a little longer to build due to a lot of competing interests in the park and the prolific use it gets on a daily basis. It is hoped that the deeper-water pockets, under the new streambank, will greatly increase the previously minimally existent fish and aquatic mammal habitat. In fact, a muskrat has been frequenting the area already!



Photo: Larry Imes

*This park enhancement project addresses several issues within Wildwood including:*

- Reducing streambank erosion
- Decreasing sediment flowing into Wildwood Lake
- Stabilizing a collapsing bank and the Nature Center's foundation for years to come



The streambank before restoration.



The streambank after restoration.

## North Boardwalk Update

A fifty-foot section of the North Boardwalk was removed in early January. Floodwaters compromised the structural integrity deeming it unsafe for visitors. Until a long-term solution can be reached, a primitive, alternate trail from the Delta Boardwalk can be used to access the remainder of the North Boardwalk.

At this time, the long-term plan is to build a new accessible boardwalk to connect the Delta Boardwalk to the North Boardwalk in the area where the alternate trail is presently located. This aligns with the Wildwood Restoration Design and Permitting Project currently underway. More to come as this project unfolds and fundraising begins.

## *Δ word from Wildwood*

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Friends of Wildwood

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**DAUPHIN COUNTY**  
PENNSYLVANIA  
**PARKS & RECREATION**

Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center are part of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department. The Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is closed Mondays and holidays. Wildwood Park's trails are open from dawn until dusk. Programs can be viewed at [www.wildwoodlake.org](http://www.wildwoodlake.org) and questions directed to [wwstaff@dauphinc.org](mailto:wwstaff@dauphinc.org).

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## *A Word from the President*

It certainly has not felt much like winter around Harrisburg so far. At times it has almost felt like an extended fall. While the residents of Wildwood depend on the cold and snow of winter as part of their natural cycles, the warm weather resulted in a record number of visitors to the Nature Center in January!

Our annual Friends of Wildwood sponsored Winter Lecture Series has come to a close, with the lectures once again being very well attended. This is one of the longest-running programs at Wildwood, which began when the Nature Center opened its doors in 1999 (more on page 6).

Thanks to Wildwood staff for coordinating the wonderful, highly knowledgeable speakers, who engaged the audience, taking time to answer questions. The Spotlight on PA State Species theme will continue for the 2021 series, so stay tuned!

The Friends' are excited to hold our 4th Annual Painting at the Park on Sunday, May 17th. Purchase a ticket for mom for Mother's Day or gather your friends for a fun afternoon (details on page 4).

While the behind-the-scenes details continue to come together on the Wildwood Park Improvement Projects, there is still time to make a donation towards the project. Project enhancements include: the permanent, accessible restroom near the Olewine Pavilion, trail repairs to the Wildwood Way Trail, new signage, hydration stations and a spotting scope. All of these improvements will not only enhance your experience at Wildwood, but also improve the experience of over 100,000 visitors to the park annually. 100% of all donations directly support the park.

Heather

## Photo Contest Results

An amazing 161 photographs were submitted in the 2019 Photo Contest, winners were announced at the Contest Awards Ceremony and Reception in January. A very big thank you to all the entrants, and congratulations to the winners! As there were so many beautiful photographs, the judges had quite a difficult time selecting the winners in the following four categories. We are also pleased to announce the winners of the third annual People's Choice Awards.

### Advanced

- 1st: Michael Morris, "A Bug's Life"
- 2nd: Wes Peterson, "Gotcha"
- 3rd: Sherri Hendricks, "Fierce"

### Intermediate

- 1st: Deb Kreider, "How Do You Like My Peach Fuzz?"
- 2nd: Dale Passow, "Yee Ha, What a Ride!"
- 3rd: Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah, "Kiss Me! I am a Prince"

### Beginner

- 1st: Walter Margeson, "Breakfast of Champions"
- 2nd: Deborah Moehlmann, "Peek-A-Boo"
- 3rd: Patricia Marshall, "Green Heron Contrasted"

### Youth

- 1st: Zachary Gleiter, "Frog II"
- 2nd: Lily Bialousz, "Perfect Timing"
- 3rd: Olivia Schneider, "Standing Still"

### People's Choice winners:

- Advanced: Sherri Hendricks, "Leave a Tender Moment Alone"
- Intermediate: Patricia Cooper, "Wide Eyed"
- Beginner: Walter Margeson, "Breakfast of Champions"
- Youth: Lily Bialousz, "Perfect Timing"

Winning photographs will be on display in the Nature Center over the next year. Thank you to judges: Ellen Siddons, Raymond Gehman and Denny Bingaman for their time and expertise; and to the committee, staff and volunteers for continued efforts in bringing the beauty of Wildwood Park to you.

Thank you Michael Morris for use of "A Bug's Life" on the 2020 brochure. Are you poised and ready for the 2020 Photo Contest? We are!

## Camera Drawing Winner

Congratulations to Gary Smith, winner of the 2019 camera raffle. Thank you Canon Professional Services and Charlie Smith.



## 2019 First Place Winners



**Youth:** Zachary Gleiter  
*Frog II*



**Beginner:** Walter Margeson  
*Breakfast of Champions*



**Intermediate:** Deb Kreider  
*How Do You Like My Peach Fuzz?*



**Advanced:** Michael Morris  
*Bug's Life*

# WETLANDS FESTIVAL

The Wetlands Festival is a time to honor Wildwood Park's treasured wetlands and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.



Join in the celebration with a day of free, fun and educational activities on **Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 10:00 am–4:00 pm.**

Enjoy musical entertainment and get to know the animals of Wildwood through live animal programs. Attendees participate in engaging environmental activities, enjoy delicious food and explore creative exhibitor displays and unique vendors.



## Painting at the Park

Please join the Friends of Wildwood for our fourth annual Painting at the Park. Bring your friends and your creative eye as Jenn Brown, from Jenn's Craft Parties, leads us through the creation of a springtime scene. All experience levels are welcome. All materials will be provided and light refreshments will be available. Come with your family, your friends or your significant other. You will surely have fun and leave with a one-of-a-kind piece. Preregistration is required by May 10, 2020. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. \$25.00 per person, register online.



**Sunday, May 17, 2020 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

## Art In The Wild Lecturer & Judge: Patricia Goodrich

Patricia Goodrich is a visual artist, curator and poet. Her earthworks, sculpture, two-dimensional works and multi-media installations can be found in China, Egypt, Haiti, Korea, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Morocco, Peru, Federation of Russia, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey and U.S.A. She is a recipient of fellowships and residencies through the Andy Warhol Foundation, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Europos Parkas (Lithuania), Inter-Art Foundation-Romania, Leeway Foundation, Makole Sculpture Symposium-Slovenia, AMCC-Morocco, Promart Haiti, Puffin Foundation, Santa Fe Art Institute, Vermont Studio Center, Yaddo and Yinchuan China Artists Association. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Michigan University and Master of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

During the Art In The Wild Lecture on **Thursday, April 9, 2020 from 6–6:30 pm** she will present "ON SITE: Considerations in Siting Earthworks", illustrated by her own site specific works.



## Sign Design Workshop

Design a decorative wooden sign. Everything needed for each participant to create their own nature-themed sign will be provided. Select from two different style boards. This do it yourself project makes a great afternoon get together for you and someone special. Enjoy light refreshments while finishing your final touches. \$35.00 per person, register online.

**Saturday May 9, 2020 at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm**



# Upcoming Events

## Online Registration!

Program registration is online at [www.wildwoodlake.org](http://www.wildwoodlake.org). It's easy!  
Click on the "Events" page, scroll through the list of programs, click on the link to register.

### Dr. Seuss Science Series

Wednesdays, February 26 – March 18

10:00 am – 11:00 am

\$5 per child, chaperones free

Stories, rhymes, and a take-home craft/activity will introduce science through the eyes of Dr. Seuss and the joy of books and language to youngsters. For children ages 3-5. Register online for one class or all of them!

### Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, March 14 & Saturday, May 9

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Free

### Fundamentals of Photography I

Saturday, March 21 & 28

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$200 per person

In this two-day hands-on workshop, Charlie Smith of Canon Professional Services will get you up and running fast with the skills you need to get the most from your camera. This program is for adults, no previous experience required. For more detailed information, visit [www.photolivelearning.com](http://www.photolivelearning.com). Register online.

### Flower Walks

Cold Tolerant Plants: Sunday, March 22

Dutchman's Breeches and Trout Lilies: Sunday, April 19

Jack in the Pulpits: Sunday, May 17

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Free

### Bird Walk: Waterfowl and Early Spring Migrants

Wednesday, March 25

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Free

Meet at the North Parking Lot along Industrial Road.

### Preschool Storytime: Spring at Wildwood!

Wednesday, March 25

10:00 am – 10:45 am

Free

### Kids Discover: Flowers and Pollinators

Saturday, April 4

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

\$5 per child, parents are free

Flowers bloom at all times of the year, even when there is still snow on the ground! Join a naturalist and learn how flowers are essential, how skunk cabbage melts snow, and other amazing pollinator facts. At the end of the program you will plant a seed to take home. Ages 5-8 and their parents. Register online.

### Night Sky Exploration at Detweiler Park

Saturday, April 4

8:00 pm – 9:30 pm

\$5 per child, parents are free

Join Astronomical Society of Harrisburg President, Chip Templin for an evening of star and moon gazing at Detweiler Park. The evening will begin with a short 0.3 mile walk along variable terrain to the open fields. With the help of scopes, binoculars and sky maps, participants will be able to observe the moon in its waxing gibbous phase in addition to other popular spring constellations. Dress for the weather and bring something to sit on. Register online.

### Art In The Wild

Meet the Artists Sunday, April 5

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

2020 Exhibit Opens Saturday, April 11–September 30

Dawn till Dusk

### Clean Up Your Earth Day

Saturday, April 11

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Free

Take this opportunity to work outside and help Wildwood's continued park and habitat enhancement projects. Tools and work gloves provided. Registration is required for groups of six or more. Assume the work day is cancelled if it is raining.

### Bird Walk: Peak Migration

Wednesday, May 6

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Free

Meet Rick and Peggy Price at the Nature Center Parking Lot to search for spring migrants.

### Kids Discover: Butterflies and Moths

Saturday, May 30

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

\$5 per child, parents are free

What is the difference between a butterfly and a moth? Where do they go in the winter? Learn the answers to these questions plus much more while exploring the life cycle, anatomy and different species of butterflies and moths that call Pennsylvania home. At the end of the program, journey outside with a naturalist to collect your own butterfly or moth to observe and release. Register online.

## 2020 Summer Day Camps at Wildwood Park

### Nature Explorers Day Camp (ages 6-8)

Monday, June 22 to Friday, June 26

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$150 per person

### Junior Naturalist Day Camp (ages 9-11)

Monday, July 6 to Friday, July 10 and

Monday, July 13 to Friday, July 17

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$150 per person

### JumpStart Photography for Kids (ages 7-12)

Monday, July 20 to Friday, July 24

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$125 per person

### JumpStart Photography for Kids (ages 7-12)

Monday, July 20 to Friday, July 24

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$125 per person

### Outdoor Week (ages 12-14)

Monday, July 27 to Friday, July 31

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

\$150 per person

### Photo Boot Camp: Fundamentals of Photography (ages 13-17)

Monday, August 3 to Friday, August 7

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

\$200 per person

If you haven't been inside the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood lately, you haven't seen the new items available in the newly named 'Nature Shop.'



Need a gift or something special for yourself or your children? Consider visiting Wildwood and the Nature Shop.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Cara Martinez-Williams

Cara Martinez-Williams has been volunteering at Wildwood since the Nature Center opened. Locally based herself, Wildwood provided a convenient, relaxing location to observe and partake in nature. Her first volunteer efforts were trail maintenance where she met Allen Marshall. Allen spent time with Cara on many walks where he shared his knowledge of Wildwood flora.

With this new knowledge, she began to lead Flower Walks that were free to the public in 2004. These walks have evolved over the years to incorporate something that interests everyone! On a walk with Cara you will learn not just the identification of a species, but also some folklore, habitat background and interesting facts. She loves the freedom as a volunteer to integrate topics that interest her into these walks. An added benefit is the friends she has met over the years.

In 2016, she was approached to assist with the creation of “Wildflowers of Wildwood Park” an identification book available in the Nature Center Gift Shop. With the help of Harry Watts, who photographed the flowers, she designed the layout and text.

Currently, Cara continues to lead both tree and flower walks for the public. More recently she has enjoyed volunteering with her 14-year-old granddaughter, Olivia, on weekends at the Front Desk. In the winter months, they participated in Project FeederWatch, an on-going research program that monitors and records the number of bird species that frequent the feeders. This is a relaxing and joyous time for her to share with Olivia, who has been volunteering at Wildwood since she was 9!



*Photo: Cara & Oliva*

## Volunteers Needed

The Olewine Nature Center is looking for volunteers to help with interesting tasks around the Nature Center. These tasks include preparing & cleaning bird specimens and animal mounts throughout the center or volunteering at the Front Desk on weekends. Interested volunteers should email [kwarshefski@dauphinc.org](mailto:kwarshefski@dauphinc.org).

## Muskrat Lodge

For weeks visitors have been enjoying a muskrat lodge visible from the Mulch Pile in the Lake on the Towpath Trail. Muskrats build houses or “lodges” out of cattail stalks and other vegetation. The lodge has many off-shoot chambers including underwater entrances. The house is chinked with mud and weeds extending 8-10 feet across and 2-3 feet above the waterline.

Muskrat populations have been declining in recent years. One hypothesis is habitat loss. Muskrats depend on wetlands and proper wetland function. Just another reason to continue our efforts to preserve and enjoy Wildwood for years to come!



*Photo: Larry Imes*

## Winter Lecture Series

Wildwood welcomed many eager learners to this year’s Winter Lecture Series: Spotlight on Pennsylvania State Species. A speaker from the PA Bureau of Forestry shared on the eastern hemlock tree and the effects of the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect. A speaker from the PA Game Commission shared on the white-tailed deer and the impact of diseases such as chronic wasting disease on PA populations.

The ruffed grouse was highlighted by another PA Game Commission biologist who discussed their history within the state and recent population decline. The last lecture conducted by members of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Student Leadership Council, was on the eastern hellbender and their efforts to recognize this unique species as PA’s state amphibian.



## Run Wild for Wildwood

Save the date for Wildwood Park's 2nd annual Run Wild for Wildwood 5K & 10K (new this year!). This scenic run/walk will take you on the Wildwood Way Trail around the lake and the Towpath Trail along the Pennsylvania Canal! Bring your friends and family to show your support for Wildwood Park and the community. Join us afterwards for an awards ceremony and tasty treats.

**When:** Saturday, August 29, 2020

**Time:** 8:30 am–11:00 am

**Register online:** <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Harrisburg/RunWildforWildwood>



### Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically

*A Word from Wildwood* can be sent electronically to Friends of Wildwood members. Email [wwstaff@dauphinc.org](mailto:wwstaff@dauphinc.org).

**Help save paper and \$! Go Green!**

## Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 easy ways to give to Wildwood.

All are tax deductible.

Details at [www.wildwoodlake.org/support](http://www.wildwoodlake.org/support)

1. **Become a Member** or give the gift of membership
2. Make a Donation
3. Make a Bequest
4. Purchase a Memorial Brick
5. Contribute to Wildwood's Endowment
6. Sponsor a Program
7. Volunteer your Time



## Membership Benefits

Your membership supports the ongoing environmental education programs and conservation efforts of Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

Your Membership provides the following:

- Reciprocal membership with more than 125 nature centers throughout the country that participate in the Association of Nature Center Administrators
- Subscription to *A Word From Wildwood* quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount off all Gift Shop purchases
- Knowing you
  - support Environmental Education programs reaching 10,000 people annually
  - have a direct impact on local and migratory wildlife, wild plants, and the diverse people living in our community
  - preserve Wildwood Park, now and for future generations.

## Have you considered Wildwood Park in your estate planning?

The Friends of Wildwood Lake Nature Center, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization listed with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations, and incorporated within the Commonwealth of PA. It is an advocate for Wildwood Park through preservation, education and financial support.

Friends of Wildwood  
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[www.wildwoodlake.org](http://www.wildwoodlake.org)

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Mark your calendars for  
these upcoming events!

Art In The Wild

open to the public

Sat. April 11—

Sat. Sept. 30

dawn to dusk

Wetlands  
Festival

Sat. April 25

10am—4pm

Painting  
at the Park

Sun. May 17

1:30pm—3:30pm



30% Recycled post-consumer fiber