

A word from Wildwood

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



Chesapeake Bay Foundation Tree Planting

Saturday, April 10th was a busy day at Wildwood Park! In a collaborative effort with the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and volunteers from WebFX, 140 trees were planted along Wildwood Way Trail. Since we are located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, these trees will help to improve the quality of Wildwood Park and the Chesapeake Bay long-term. A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved in this tree planting! For more information on the Keystone 10 Million trees initiative, visit <http://www.tenmilliontrees.org/index.html>.



A Bittersweet Farewell

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation said goodbye to Director Carl Dickson after 43 years of service to Fort Hunter Park and the Department. With a career that began his senior year of high school as a mansion tour guide, he was later hired by the County as the Fort Hunter Manager. In 2006, Carl became the director of the Department. During his tenure, he helped expand the quality of recreational and educational programs, strengthened the 3 park boards, expanded and improved the Capital Area Greenbelt and Lykens Rail Trail, oversaw improvements to Wildwood Park and the major acquisition of Detweiler Park.

Best wishes for a hard-earned and well-deserved time off! He will be missed greatly, but we all know that he will continue to support the department in any way that he can.



Mr. Olewine & Carl

Girl Scout Troop 12300 Bronze Award

The 2021 Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 12300 were busy this spring designing wood duck and screech owl boxes to be used along the new boardwalk to be used throughout the park. These boxes will help conserve and maintain the health of these species in the wetland forest habitat. The girls would like to thank the PA Game Commission and Howard Nursery for supplying them with resources and information. Thank you ladies!



Help Us Save The Boardwalk!

After almost twenty-five years of high use and natural wear, the Friends of Wildwood are raising money to reopen the North Boardwalk. The boardwalks at Wildwood provide a continuous path into the heart of the Park, offering a rare glimpse of the inner workings of a wetland. Thanks to the generosity of our visitors and volunteers, and our lead sponsors, Kristen Olewine Milke and Benjamin Olewine IV, we are well on our way! We have also secured two grants: \$100,000 from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and \$50,000 from the Dauphin County Commissioners. To learn more, or to make a donation, visit explorewildwoodpark.org/donate-now

How-To Garden Workshops

Join Penn State Extension Master Gardener, Kevin Kelly, for a series of gardening workshops. Workshops are topic based, will include both an indoor and outdoor component and are limited to 12 participants. Each workshop is \$14 per person. Attend one, or all of them!

How-To Soil Test Your Home Garden

Thursday, June 3 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

How-To Add the “WOW Factor” to Your Home Garden

Saturday, June 19 9:00 am – 10:30 am

How-To Improve Your Home Garden in the Fall

Saturday, September 11 9:00 am – 10:30 am

How-To Design a Home Garden Bed

Thursday, September 30 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

How-To Prepare Your Home Garden for Winter

Saturday, October 30 9:00 am – 10:30 am

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Friends of Wildwood

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www.explorewildwoodpark.org

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DAUPHIN COUNTY
P E N N S Y L V A N I A
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.explorewildwoodpark.org/events and questions directed to wwstaff@dauphinc.org.

County Commissioners

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Theresa Alberici, Part-time Environmental Educator

Savanna Lenker, Part-time Environmental Educator

Jessica Picone, Part-time Environmental Educator

Julie Queen, Part-time Environmental Educator

A Word from the President

Wildwood is looking a little different this year than it did last year. While the birds are still singing and the vegetation is greening up, the Nature Center and updated Nature Shop are open to the public and programming has returned with safety measures in place.

The weather was perfect for Wetlands Festival and everyone was excited to enjoy the activities that were modified for the day. In addition to attending live animal programs and visiting with community groups, some festival goers were able to plant a few remaining trees that were leftover from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation tree planting *more on page 1*. Thank you all for investing in the future of Wildwood! This was certainly a favorite activity of the day, as were the take-home reptile craft kits. Friends volunteers quickly distributed these resources to the eager kids, who enjoyed learning about the life cycle of frogs. For many of us, it was the first time we had seen one another in person in over a year!

Another favorite activity at Wetlands Festival for many visitors was visiting the seventeen Art In The Wild installations along Wildwood Way trail. The display is open during park hours until the end of September and shows off the unique talents of local artists. You can even vote for your favorite installation on our website *more on page 3*.

Speaking of our website, be sure to check out the Park's new website at: explorewildwoodpark.org to keep up-to-date on all of park events and ways to continue to support the Park. Thanks to Wildwood staff and Board members of the Website Committee for their assistance and input in modernizing the website and making it more user friendly.

The website will also make contributing to the "Save The Boardwalk" campaign easier than ever. We continue to make progress towards our fundraising goal and every donation helps. With an increase in park visitors utilizing the trails over the past year, the boardwalks are a vital asset to the Park. They provide a special experience and accessibility for many to enjoy all that Wildwood has to offer. We look forward to being able to complete this project as soon as we are able.

See you at Wildwood.

Heather

Friends of Wildwood Launch a New Website!

After many months of careful planning, deliberating over just the right wording and searching for the perfect photo, our new and improved website is complete! Many thanks to the Board and Staff for the hours of time they put into making this process a reality. And of course, thanks to Pixel & Hammer for making it all come together! Check it out at www.explorewildwoodpark.org

Art In The Wild 2021 Theme: Reimagining

Musical instruments, lotus seed pods, a bevy of animals, a grouping of webs, an elegant aperture – a wide variety of Art in the Wild (AITW) installations debuted in April. Newcomer artists created seven of the seventeen works of art. If you have not yet stopped by to view some, if not all of the installations, we hope you make time to do so.

As was done last year, each artist/artist team who finished an installation received a \$200 stipend. The public can view the art installations around the Park trails through this September. The Friends have made this project possible for the ninth year because of their generous funding. Dauphin County also provided important monetary support, in addition to supplemental gifts from members of the Art In The Wild committee.

Assisted by the ever upbeat and helpful Wildwood environmental educator Richelle Corty, the Art In The Wild committee juried the applications, worked with the new artists and created the brochure. The vice president of the Friends of Wildwood board, Jim Caufield, was also instrumental in this work.

The Committee busily created a new role entitled ‘critiquer’ (formerly called the judge) for Patricia Goodrich of Richlandtown, PA; obtained Mick Corman (Capital Area School of the Arts art teacher) to create the Art In The Wild video edited by his students; and planned the late May Celebration for the artists.

Art In The Wild is certainly a treasured program at Wildwood one we hope will be around for years to come. To view the video and vote for your favorite installation in the People’s Choice Contest visit <https://woobox.com/ivp3q5> or stop by the Nature Center Tuesday through Sunday 10am until 4pm to vote in person.

Art In The Wild Critiquer Comments

What a pleasure it was to meander the Wildwood Park trails and to encounter not only budding trees, shining waters, birds, snakes, frogs, turtles, dogs leashed and people unleashed, but also artists’ Land Art creations within Nature’s own. Some made me smile, others invited meditation, or to listen or to look again—to see from an altered perspective.

As this year’s Art in the Wild Critiquer, I was beyond delighted to experience the entirety of the installations. The individual awards were based on: Theme, Concept, Site Integration, Longevity, Use of natural materials, Craftsmanship, Audience interaction and Surprise/play/ahhh /x factor. All artists deserve recognition for various elements.



1st Place



2nd Place

1st “My Broken Heart” Carrie Breschi Site 9

2nd “Dawn of a New Day” Jill Lippert Site 25

3rd “Growth” Carol Reed Site 3



3rd Place

Thank you!

A special thank you goes out to Jil Strang from “Dig My Earth LLC” for donating the mulch used around the Nature Center and in the South Lot Pollinator Garden. For more information on this organization visit <https://www.digmyearth.com/>.

Welcome Julie!

Wildwood welcomed a new part-time environmental educator, Julie Queen, to the staff this spring. Julie has a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Millersville University. After graduation, she served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador as a Natural Resource Conservation volunteer for over two years. Julie has worked for both the PA Department of Agriculture and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In 2016, Julie completed a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and worked as a Ridgerunner on the AT in 2017. Most recently, Julie worked as the Associate Director of Outdoor Experience for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. Julie currently serves as the Manager of the Appalachian Trail Museum in Gardners. She is excited to join the Wildwood Park team and to learn more about wetland habitats.



Artist Corner Needs A Fresh Look

The Olewine Nature Center is looking for nature-themed artworks to display in the Exhibit Hall. Past artworks have included: wildlife photographs taken at Wildwood, pencil drawings of Wildwood, water-color paintings and more. Artists would be responsible for providing 10-15 framed pieces to be hung for a seasonal duration in the Exhibit Hall for the public's viewing. Interested artists should email wwstaff@dauphinc.org for more information.

This is a wonderful way to display local art in appreciation of the natural world around us.



Wetlands Festival Success

What a glorious day Saturday, April 24 turned out to be. Blue skies and sunshine stretched as far as the eye could see. The day was packed with options for the whole family, including: live animals, kids activities, food vendors, local environmental exhibitors and much more. Wildwood staff and Friends volunteers worked hard to ensure spaces were clean and guests felt safe. In an effort to social distance visitors, exhibitors were spread throughout the Park which cut down on crowds in small areas.



Photo: Amy Spangler

Friends of Wildwood Board are Looking for New Members

The Friends of Wildwood Board of Directors are always looking for prospective members who are passionate about Wildwood Park. The Friends are a non-profit, volunteer organization who support Wildwood Park through fundraising, programs, events and projects. Projects include: Nature Center construction, enhanced amenities, pollinator gardens, turtle research and much more. The Board meets monthly with additional time dedicated to committee meetings and events throughout the year. If you have interest in learning more about serving on the Friends of Wildwood Board, please contact wwstaff@dauphinc.org.

Volunteer Appreciate Ice Cream Social at Fort Hunter

On Tuesday, June 22 from 6:00 pm–8:00 pm Fort Hunter will host a combined volunteer appreciation ice cream social for volunteers from Wildwood and Fort Hunter outside on the lawn by the Centennial Barn. Evening entertainment from Mark DeRose will be included. Please RSVP to Janet Reed at jreed@dauphinc.org or call (717) 599-5188 ext. 0.

Species Spotlight: American Coot

An American Coot hung around the Canal and lower Lake for several weeks in March, posing for watchful photographers. American Coots are chickenlike birds, two-thirds the size of a Mallard duck, with rounded heads and sloping beaks. They are mostly dark gray with a white bill and forehead. A red eye and distinctive yellow-green lobed toes are their most noteworthy features. It is these unique feet that allow the bird to readily navigate both water and land. If seen on land, they do appear to be rather clumsy while walking or shall we say, waddling. They require quite a long running start to take flight in addition to beating their wings. Because coots live in wetlands, they can actually begin to accumulate toxins from pollution sources in their bodies. Due to their wide



Photo: Eric Willet

range, scientists can sometimes use these birds as a way of monitoring pollutants in water bodies.

Upcoming Events

Online Registration!

Program registration is online at www.explorewildwoodpark.org/events/
It's easy! Click on the "Events" page, scroll through the list of programs, click to register.
Masks and social distancing required for all in person programs.

Detweiler Park Photo Walk

Thursday, June 10

8:00 am–10:00 am

Free

Experience the natural beauty and ecology of Detweiler Park while practicing the art of photography. Guided by a knowledgeable photographer and Naturalist, beginners will learn how to apply outdoor photography concepts including aperture and composition. Intermediate and advanced photographers welcome. Register online.

Kids Discover: Herps (ages 5-10)

Thursday, June 10

1:00 pm–3:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones free

A short walk along the Towpath or Delta Boardwalk reveals a row of turtles basking in the sun, a startled frog leaping into the water or a snake curled up on a log. Come to see these animals up close and learn about what makes each one special. Register online.

Volunteer Work Days

Saturday June 12, July 10, August 14

10:00 am–1:00 pm

Free

Register online.

Growing Up WILD Educator Workshop

Thursday, June 17

9:00 am–12:30 pm

\$25 per person

Growing Up WILD is a nationally recognized early childhood education curriculum. Join educators from the PA Game Commission and Wildwood Park for an engaging workshop featuring field-tested, hands-on activities about wildlife, people and the environment. Register online.

Kids Discover: Endangered Species (ages 5-10)

Saturday June, 26

10:00 am–11:30 am

\$5 per child, chaperones free

Did you know endangered species live right here in Harrisburg? Join a naturalist to explore endangered species that call Pennsylvania home. Discover what is being done to help them recover and get an up-close look at items made illegally from endangered species from around the world. Participants will take a short walk and make a take-home craft. Register online.

Wildwood Park Coloring Contest

Wednesday, July 1 – Friday July 31

10:00 am–4:00 pm

Free

Children ages 5-10 years may submit a Wildwood-themed 8 ½ x 11 hand drawn, portrait-style coloring page. Entries will be submitted to the Nature Center in person, via mail or email during the month of July and hung for the public's viewing in the Exhibit Hall. For more information visit www.explorewildwoodpark.org.

Kids Discover: Nature Journaling

Friday, July 9th

(Ages 4-6) 10:00 am–11:30 am

(Ages 7-10) 1:00 pm–2:30 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones free

Join a Naturalist for a chance to color or write observations in your very own nature journal. Meet at the North Lot, where we will take a brief walk to the Meadow. Children will find a natural object or living thing and ask and answer the following questions: I notice, I wonder and it reminds me of. Register online.

Kids Discover: Outdoor Play (ages 5-10)

Thursday, July 15

5:30 pm–7:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones free

Exchange screen-time for play time this evening. Join a Naturalist at Fort Hunter to discover a variety of creative outdoor games anyone can play at home. Think creatively, move around and most of all have fun! Register online.

Sustainable Floristry—A Flower Arranging Workshop

Saturday, July 17

10:00 am–11:30 am or 1:00 pm–2:30 pm

\$35 per person

Join Dolores McGee, for a morning or afternoon of sustainable flower arranging. Dolores will provide information on sustainable floristry and walk participants through the basic steps and materials needed to create their own arrangement using things you can find and upcycle from home. Workshops limited to 15 participants. Register online.

Detweiler Park Discovery Walk

Tuesday, July 27

9:00 am–11:00 am

Free

Join a Wildwood Park Naturalist for a hike at Detweiler Park. Our hike will include a look at insects, plants and trees—whatever interesting things we can find! Register online.

Greenbelt Connector Walk

Thursday, August 5

8:30 am–10:00 am

Free

Join a Naturalist to walk the Greenbelt Connector from Fort Hunter to Wildwood Park. Plan to park along the river at Fort Hunter and meet at Heckton Church. The walk will proceed along the river past several historical and natural sites, concluding at Wildwood Park. Register online.

Wild Edibles Program

Tuesday, August 10

6:00 pm–8:00 pm

\$12 per person

Join Debbie Naha to discover edible plants in our area. Lots of folks do not realize they are surrounded by edibles. Debbie, an educator, author, licensed nutritionist and wild edibles expert will discuss plant identification, safety, look-alike plants, sustainable harvesting and nutrition. Enjoy a presentation, walk and to-go taste testing. Register online.

Natural Tie-Dye

Saturday, August 14

12:00 pm–3:00 pm

\$8 per person

Bring your own white or lightly colored, prewashed t-shirt to a fun, outdoor natural tie-dye event at Wildwood Park. Meet at the Olewine Pavilion for a chance to learn about natural plant-based dyes. Instruction will be provided. Ages 5 and up, adults welcome! Register online.

Kids Discover: The 10 Essentials (ages 5-10)

Saturday, August 21

9:00 am–11:00 am

\$12 per child, chaperones free

Join a Naturalist for a hike at Detweiler Park and discover what essential items to take with you on every adventure. This program will provide critical information for your future outdoor explorations. A few items will be provided for you to take home and start your own survival pack! Register online.

Kids Discover: Monarchs (ages 5-10)

Tuesday, August 24th

1:00 pm–2:30 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones free

Join a Naturalist for a chance to see these amazing insects up close and personal in three of their prominent life stages. Program will occur outside on the West Lawn by the small pavilion closest to the Nature Center. Register online.

Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Lundeen

Mary, her husband Paul and their son Alan enjoyed biking the trails at Wildwood for years before she got involved volunteering here. They found Wildwood to be a hidden gem tucked away from the stressful business of life. Mary grew up on an orchard and it was her mother that first introduced her to plants, soil structure, vegetables and flowers at an early age, a love she would one day transfer to her own home. Upon retiring, Mary took a Master Gardener course in 2008 and grew her knowledge from there.

Every state has a Master Gardener program associated with the state university agricultural extension offices. Master Gardeners then take what they have learned from their course work and teach through outreach programs and education, covering a litany of topics. Mary also took a supplemental course with the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals which focused on the importance of native plants and planting the proper plants to filter contaminants, retain water and prevent runoff in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

As a former Fort Hunter Trustee and FOFH board president, Mary shifted gears and began serving at Wildwood on the Art In The Wild Committee where she joined a pioneer committee who developed the program which still exists today. At that time, they needed to figure out how to find artists and judges and how to organize the project.

In 2017, Mary was approached by the the recently formed Development Committee and asked if she would consider using her Master Gardener knowledge at Wildwood. What grew from there were ideas and plans to develop and foster a pollinator garden at the South Lot Entrance to the Park. Donation monies got the project off the ground quickly, and as time went by, empty spaces were filled in with plants donated by Master Gardeners or Friends of Wildwood volunteers. The project has been a lot of trial and error finding just the right plants that would thrive and adapt to the soil.

Continual work on the South Lot Pollinator Garden is what keeps her coming back in the hopes that those beds will spark interest in folks who know little about pollinators and plants. Mary shared “if there is an area that interests you, I bet there is something for you to do at Wildwood.” There are a lot of options. Consider contacting Wildwood or attending Volunteer Work Days to see what projects need done. Inquire into how you can help and share your ideas for improvement. Make yourself known! To paraphrase JFK:

“Ask not what Wildwood can do for you but what you can do for Wildwood.”

If you would like to know more about Master Gardeners or gardening in general, consider attending one or all of Wildwood and PennState Extension’s upcoming How-To Garden Workshops *more on page 1* or check out Doug Tallamy’s book “Bringing Nature Home.”



Seeking Volunteers

The Olewine Nature Center is looking for Front Desk volunteers for weekdays and weekends. Front Desk volunteers are an **essential** part of the Nature Center. They meet and greet visitors, answer phone calls, process Nature Shop sales along with various other jobs. Interested volunteers should email kharbert@dauphinc.org.

Industrial Road Clean Up a Huge Success

Wildwood welcomed 100 volunteers on site for the first Volunteer Work Day of 2021! Folks were tired of seeing litter and not being able to do much about it due to long term snow cover! As the snows receded, we went after it; armed with gloves, bags, vests and grabbers, trash didn’t stand a chance against this small army!

When the fog lifted and the clean up concluded, we tallied 220 bags of litter that were gathered in a 3 hour period along the 1 mile stretch of Industrial Road paralleling Wildwood Park. Additionally, UNFI, Wildwood’s closest warehouse neighbor, picked up 30 additional bags of litter around the Park on March 17.

A big thanks to our partners: we could not have done this without this collaborative community effort!



- Harrisburg Bicycle Club
- Capital Area Greenbelt Association
- City of Harrisburg Parks and Rec
- Dauphin County Parks and Rec
- Friends of Wildwood
- UNFI
- Sigma

Wanted: Wide-mouthed Glass Jars

Wildwood staff are looking for empty wide-mouthed glass jars, either pint or quart-sized. All donations can be left at the Nature Center Front Desk.

Litter Clean-Up Station

A self-serve litter clean-up station is now available to anyone looking to pick up trash at Wildwood Park. Necessary equipment is located behind the Nature Center adjacent to the shed. This station is open daily during daylight hours and is complete with safety vests, trash bags, gloves, grabbers and a large mobile safety sign.

A waiver form must be completed before use and placed in the designated folder. Please notify wwstaff@dauphinc.org or call the Nature Center at 717 221-0292 when trash bags need picked up.

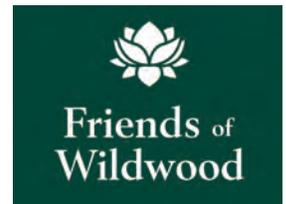
Thank you for your help in keeping Wildwood Park beautiful and clean!

Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 easy ways to give to Wildwood.
All are tax deductible.

Details at www.explorewildwoodpark.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



Run Wild for Wildwood 5K & 10K

Saturday, August 28
8:45 am–11:00am

\$25 for 5K, \$30 for 10K

Choose to complete the run/walk in person, or virtually!

This scenic run/walk will take you on the Wildwood Way Trail around the Lake and down the Towpath Trail along the PA Canal. Register online at <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.



Help save paper and money! GO GREEN!

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?

Friends of Wildwood 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.explorewildwoodpark.org

Mark your calendars for
these upcoming events!

Coloring Contest

July 1-31

10:00 am — 4:00 pm

Wild Edibles
Workshop

Tue. August 10
6:00 pm — 8:00 pm

Natural
Tie-Dye

Sat. August 14
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm



30% Recycled post-consumer fiber