

A word from Wildwood

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

Tropical Storm Ida

Tropical Storm Ida brought some of the highest water levels on record to Wildwood Park. The Lake level rose eight feet or more. Wildwood provided much needed flood protection for the City of Harrisburg, diverting more than seven million cubic feet of water away from the City.

Though the trails sustained significant damage, the Park fared pretty well considering the Lake overtopped the Morning Glory Spillway and inundated sections of the Towpath Trail.

The most notable damage was destruction and subsequent closing of the eastern section of the Delta Boardwalk. Please visit our website for continued updates as repair plans unfold.

Other damages from Ida included Olewine Pavilion roof damages from a fallen tree; Wildwood Way Trail macadam erosion; outdoor spotting scope damage; Towpath Trail surface material erosion; and a lot of debris clean up on trails and stream channels.



The streambank stabilization project by the Nature Center saw its first test against flooding and did a great job protecting the banks of Paxton Creek.

NEW Winter Wonders Camp

Discover the wonderful world of winter during this three day camp. Explore Wildwood Park in winter and learn about the frozen world through outdoor exploration, hikes and crafts. Each day will focus on a new, fun topic. This program will be held mainly outdoors. Dress appropriately for the weather—layers are key. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. The cost is \$40 per child for all three days. Register at www.explorewilwoodpark.org/events/.

For Children Ages 4-6
Tuesday, December 28 – Thursday, December 30
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Welcomes new Director: Anthea Stebbins

Anthea joined the Parks & Recreation Department in 2019 as the Fiscal Manager for the department. She has served as the Acting Director since May, when long-time director, Carl Dickson, retired. Previously, Anthea led the Parks and Recreation Department of East Hanover Township.



As a long-time Dauphin County resident and regular parks user, Anthea has always been impressed with the number, variety and quality of the parks department's programs, the care taken to provide well-maintained parks that balance recreational needs with preservation of natural and historical features and the friendliness and knowledge of park staff.

Thus far, her new role has offered several opportunities to meet and work with department volunteers. She has quickly learned that Dauphin County Parks and Recreation is extremely fortunate to be supported by many generous volunteers who donate their personal time, talents and resources to improving the parks, facilities and programs each year.

In her free time, she enjoys hiking, biking and kayaking. Her favorite activity at Wildwood is walking the trails and enjoying nature with friends, family and her dog, Pepper. Welcome Anthea! We are so excited to have you.

Thinking Ahead

The Nature Shop has some great holiday gifts, including: Field Guides, Greeting/Holiday Cards, Children's Books/Toys and Hand Crafted Gifts including Puzzles, Bird Houses, Ornaments, Jewelry, Journals, Painted Tiles and Carved Birds.

Memberships make great holiday gifts. Memberships support the ongoing environmental education programs and conservation efforts of Wildwood Park and the Olewine Nature Center.



A word from Wildwood

is published quarterly by

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.explorewildwoodpark.org/events and questions directed to wwstaff@dauphinc.org.

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Parks and Recreation Director

Anthea Stebbins

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Theresa Alberici, Part-time Environmental Educator

Carter Johnson, Part-time Environmental Educator

Savanna Lenker, Part-time Environmental Educator

Jessica Picone, Part-time Environmental Educator

A Word from the President

By the time you are reading this, the leaves will have finally fallen and the winter chill will be setting in and giving us time to reflect on the people and things we are thankful for. One of the things I'm thankful for this year is the opportunity to work with the dedicated and multi-talented Board of Directors and Wildwood Park Staff. The Friends and Staff continue to work closely together to ensure Wildwood Park will continue to play an important role environmentally, educationally and recreationally in the Harrisburg region for years to come.

At our recent Virtual Annual Meeting, we were able to highlight some of the accomplishments of our very busy year and elect new Board members. Maureen "Moe" Hickey, Kate Konkle and Shawn Scott were elected to begin their first 3-year terms in 2022. We also thanked Lee Johnson and Christine Quimby for their years of service to the Board and look forward to continuing to work with them on other committees.

After the business portion of the meeting, Board Members and Friends had the opportunity to learn more about the long-time Friends-funded turtle research taking place at Wildwood Park. Board member and Dickinson College professor, Gene Wingert, State Museum Senior Curator, Dr. Walt Meshaka and intern, Erin Kennaly explained the importance of the research, detailed the data collection process and thanked the Friends for their on-going support. The research has also resulted in the development and printing of the "Reptiles and Amphibians of Wildwood Park" pamphlet available for purchase at the Nature Shop.

While you are checking out the new pamphlet at the Nature Shop, be sure to check out the latest merchandise – there is something for everyone on your holiday shopping list. Items for bird-lovers, kids, and those that like to read can be found as well as items made by local artists. Remember Friends Members receive 10% off on all purchases. Memberships also make great gifts for Wildwood Park lovers, which can also be purchased at the Nature Shop or online at www.explorewildwoodpark.org. Don't forget your pets, we have memberships for them too!

Before long we'll be flipping the calendar to 2022. The Friends are planning many new and exciting events as well as continuing on some annual traditions.

The Friends are again sponsoring the 2022 Annual Winter Lecture Series *more on page 6*, which is still going strong after more than 20 years. For the safety of those interested in attending, the lecture series will again be held virtually.

New for 2022, the Friends are planning a Wild about Dogs event on April 2nd and all of our furry friends are invited! Stay tuned for more details. I'm sure our dog visitors and dog members will be just as excited as I am for this day that is all about them!

See you soon!

Heather

2021 Photo Contest

The annual Friends of Wildwood Photo Contest opens for public viewing in the Nature Center on December 14, 2021. Photographers in four experience categories; youth, beginner, intermediate and advanced; captured the splendor of Wildwood's wetlands habitat, flora, fauna and activities, conveying the conservational values of the Park.

During the week of December 19, our professional judges will evaluate submitted photographs based on composition, creativity, sharpness and contrast. The top three selections in each of the four divisions will be announced and prizes awarded on January 16, 2022.



Visitors may view all photographs in the Center through January 29, 2022. Once again visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites in our fifth annual People's Choice. The People's Choice awards will be announced after the display ends in early February. We hope to see you over the next few weeks as you view these spectacular photographs!

Wanted: Framed Nature-themed Artworks & Used Nature Books

The Friends of Wildwood are looking for donations of new or used framed artworks. These pieces can be originals or prints of various sizes. Interested persons can donate their pieces by dropping them off at the Nature Center Front Desk between now and January 31, 2022. Collected pieces will be auctioned off in a Silent Auction in the following months. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of Wildwood. More details will be forthcoming. Questions? Email wwstaff@dauphinc.org.

If you have been busy doing some light fall cleaning, save any used nature books. The Friends will be collecting these to sell in their on-going Used Book Sale in the downstairs of the Nature Center. Field guides, children's books and other nature-related books are appropriate. Please just books—no periodicals, magazines or videos. Happy cleaning!

Volunteers Needed!

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.

Coloring Contest Winner

This past July several children ages 5-9 entered hand-drawn coloring pages in Wildwood's second annual Coloring Contest. The pictures were on display in the Exhibit Hall inside the Nature Center during August and September. Visitors could vote on their favorite picture, and the winner was "Fox in Fall" by Elaina Donley, age 9. Congratulations Elaina!



"Fox in Fall" -Elaina Donley

Species Spotlight: Northern Pintail

Northern Pintails nest seasonally in wetland, shortgrass meadows. They enjoy feeding in shallow wetlands and ponds. Pintails stand out from other birds with their long slender necks and skinny pointed tails, most prominently seen on males in breeding plumage. Males have white breasts with a white line running up their chocolate brown necks. Females exhibit more mottling and have an unmarked light tan face. In flight a flashy green speculum or inner wing feathers can be seen on males and a bronze speculum can be seen on females.

These ducks are considered dabbling ducks, meaning they filter feed seeds and insects from the surface of the water using their bills. You can find them with a mix of other ducks and pintails waddling on foot on land searching for insects to eat. During the fall and winter, they feed mostly on seeds from grasses and other wetland plants.



Photo: Dale Bicksler

Nature Center Flower Beds

If you've been to the Nature Center recently, you may have noticed the neighboring flower beds received a make-over. These efforts are twofold. Friends of Wildwood (FOWW) volunteer Mary Lundeen, with the help of several other FOWW board members and Volunteer Work Day crews began the process of sprucing up several flower beds closest to the Nature Center. Master Gardener Kevin Kelly has focused his efforts on the Memorial Garden. The Master Gardener Fall Workshops drew in 526 people virtually and in person. Wildwood Staff would like to extend a special thank you to all who contributed time, energy and in some cases plants to diversifying the native plants for pollinators at Wildwood Park. We certainly can't wait to see your efforts come to fruition next year!

Bird House Workshop Success

On October 9, twenty adventurous creators gathered for the first annual Friends' Birdhouse Gourd Workshop. Gourds were lovingly grown by Friend's president, Heather Dock, and prepped and prepared for paint by Friends' Special Events Committee members. Participants took creative license to design bright and bold, iridescent, speckled and spangled, ombréd and patterned bird houses. In addition, crafters were able to build a bluebird box and make a simple suet bird feeder. This unique workshop opportunity will be back in the autumn of 2022. We hope to see you then!



Save The Boardwalk

The heavily used boardwalks are a vital feature of Wildwood providing access to the heart of the Park. However, these well-made wooden paths suffered major damage from flooding in recent years. The Save The Boardwalk campaign seeks donations for repairs. But boardwalk renovations are expensive, especially with rising material costs, special permitting requirements, design and construction in a wetland.

To date, we raised over \$40,000 in private donations and secured over \$150,000 in state and local grants. As we move into 2022 and continue fundraising, please know that for donors of \$500 and above, special recognition will be provided. The Friends of Wildwood are very grateful for the generous donations received. Reconstruction plans are set for the North Boardwalk section with the construction slated for Summer 2022. We will keep you updated as repair plans come together for the newly damaged section of the Delta Boardwalk. Giving is easy and can be done inside the Nature Center or online at explorewildwoodpark.org/donate-now/.

Art In The Wild

Art In The Wild is now accepting applications for the 2022 exhibition. This year's theme is "Sunlight & Shadows." Applications are available inside the Nature Center or can be downloaded online at explorewildwoodpark.org. Completed applications are due either in person or emailed to rcorty@dauphinc.org by Friday, January 21, 2022.

Please help us spread the word by sharing this announcement with your friends and family.

Art In The Wild Committee Trip to The Bower: Native Garden and Sculpture Park

On a beautiful day in October, Wildwood's Art In The Wild Committee set off on their annual field trip for inspiration at a regional art site, this time to The Bower native garden and sculpture park in Shermans Dale, PA. The Bower is a pleasant shady place serving as both a sanctuary and nature-based venue for the display of the work of regional sculpture artists. A variety of permanent outdoor sculpture populates the 36-acre property, along forested and open meadow trails, which manifests the lifelong dream of proprietors Jane and Bill Allis.



The Committee came away with new ideas for the Art In The Wild program, including inviting some of the Bower artists to Wildwood to provide critiques and reviews of Wildwood's annual, more ephemeral art installations.

Overall, the Bower helps to confirm the importance and popularity of environmental art in the region and provides another opportunity for public participation in and appreciation of this special art form. The Bower is open to the public by reservation between May 1 and October 15. For more information visit www.thegardenbower.com.

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.

Call to Artists

Now through January 21, 2022

Natural Ornaments

Sunday, December 5 & 12

10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm or 2:30 pm *\$5 per participant*

Children and adults are invited to make holiday ornaments using pinecones, milkweed pods and other natural materials. Register online.

Winter Discovery

December 11–January 30

10:00 am–4:00 pm *Free*

Visit the Olewine Nature Center, where special exhibits and activities will highlight the magic of the winter world. New this year, follow the self-guided signs along the Towpath Trail to enhance your winter walk and learn more about the natural history of Wildwood Park. Pre-registration is not required. (closed Mondays, 12/25, 1/1)

NEW Reindeer Workshop

Sunday, December 19

2:00 pm–3:30 pm *\$15 per participant*

Craft your very own wooden reindeer with Friends of Wildwood Vice President and Craftsman, Jim Caufield. Everything will be supplied to make two small reindeer with your choice of decorations from nature. All ages welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. Register online.



Winter Tree ID

Saturday, December 18

2:00 pm–4:00 pm *\$2 per participant*

Do you have trouble recognizing trees without their leaves? Join a Naturalist on a 1 to 2 mile walk at Detweiler Park. Discover how to use clues like bark, leaf litter and branching to identify trees in winter. Register online.

Kids Discover: Hibernation (ages 5-9)

Saturday, January 8 *10:30 am–12:00 pm*

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Discover the fascinating ways animals survive this season, from adapting to cold weather to hibernating or migrating. Register online.

Winter Edibles Walk

Thursday, January 13

2:00 pm–3:30 pm *\$5 per participant*

Join a Wildwood Park Naturalist for a hike at Detweiler Park with a focus on trees and edible winter foods. Register online.

NEW The Wonders of Rocks

Saturday, January 15

10:00 am–11:30 am (ages 4-6)
1:30 pm–3:00 pm (ages 7-10) *\$10 per child, chaperones are free*

Join Betsy Oberheim, a retired art teacher turned member of the Central PA Rock and Mineral Club for a day of exploring the wonders of rocks. Each child will receive a beginner rock collection to take home to grow their awareness of the world around them. Register online.

NEW Kids Discover: Winter Tracks at Lykens Glen Park

Sunday, January 16

1:30 pm–3:30 pm (ages 5-10) *\$5 per child, chaperones are free*

Join a Naturalist to discover what animals are active in winter. Learn how to identify these animals based on their tracks and walking patterns. This program will occur entirely outdoors. Register online.

NEW Rocks & Blocks Workshop

Saturday, January 22

9:00 am & 11:00 am *\$20 per participant*

Join Raymond Curanzy, III a local artist and woodworker for a morning workshop to create a sculpture using rocks, metals and woods. Each participant will have the opportunity to select from collections of wood and rocks that were found and foraged locally in south central Pennsylvania. Register online.



Kids Discover: Owls

Saturday, January 29

10:00 am–11:30 am (ages 4-6)
1:30 pm–3:00 pm (ages 7-10) *\$5 per child, chaperones are free*

Learn how to identify different species of owls by listening to their unique calls and why they hunt at night. Become a lab scientist and dissect an owl pellet to discover what they eat. Register online.

NEW Pressed Flower Valentines

Saturday, February 5

10:00 am & 11:00 am *\$10 per participant*

Craft your very own unique hand-made valentine for that special someone using pressed flowers and other items from nature. Register online.

Kids Discover: Groundhogs

Saturday, February 5

10:00 am–11:30 am (ages 4-6)
1:30 pm–3:00 pm (ages 7-10) *\$5 per child, chaperones are free*

Join a Naturalist to discover more about groundhogs. Program includes a walk to search for signs of other burrowing animals. Register online.

NEW Winter Edibles Cooking Class

Tuesday, February 15

6:00 pm–7:30 pm *\$10 per participant*

Winter may not seem like the perfect season to work with wild edibles, but it is! Most folks have extra time these days, to dedicate to the extra preparatory efforts it takes to obtain an edible product. Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to make shagbark hickory syrup and a variety of teas for an evening workshop. Register online.

Fly-tying Classes with Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Thursdays, February 17 to March 24

6:00 pm–8:00 pm *\$35 per participant*

The Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a 6-week evening course on advanced fly-tying at the Olewine Nature Center. This course is intended for individuals ages 16 and older who have mastered the entry-level tying techniques and have been fly-tying for at least 2 years. We will not be reviewing beginner skills in this course. Students must provide their own tools. Materials for the patterns to be tied will be provided at each class. Register online.

Kids Discover: Mammals and Their Pelts (ages 5-10)

Saturday, February 19

1:30 pm–3:00 pm *\$5 per child, chaperones are free*

Join a Naturalist for a hands-on exploration of skulls and pelts. Discover the variety of mammals found in Pennsylvania while learning about their habitat, what they eat and how to identify them. A walk will follow to look for tracks and other signs these mammals may have left behind. Register online.

Volunteer Spotlight: Shannon O'Shea

Shannon was born in Steelton, PA where she worked several years as a receptionist in a law office in Harrisburg. Back then you would have never found her spending enough time in the sun to accrue a farmer's tan, and you can bet there was not a trace of dirt on her heels. But the purchase of her first camera changed all that. She started out just photographing flowers and insects in her backyard. But backyard photography took its course, and she was left seeking more of a challenge elsewhere.

On her first visit to Wildwood, she met photographer Larry Imes. He was snapping photos of a bird she had never seen before, a great blue heron. He advised her that if she was going to shoot wildlife photography, she needed to learn the species she was photographing; to get to know their background, habits and anatomy. With no formal training, Shannon attributes what she knows to what she learned from other photographers and her own trial and error. Who knew such a hobby would grow in to a 10-year long obsession?

She got connected with former Environmental Educator Jane Webster at Wildwood who requested the use of her photos after helping Shannon with identifying certain species. Her favorite photography spot at Wildwood is the Towpath. A special area in particular she fondly refers to as "Duck-ville." One day she was alone on the Towpath and she saw a doe all the way across the Canal along the bank of Industrial Road. It swam across up to its neck in the water, got out and just stopped and looked at Shannon before going down over the bank into the Lake. This is one of her favorite nature sightings and is the inspiration for a photo she wants to use in this year's 2021 Photo Contest. She likes to participate in the Friends of Wildwood Photography Contest because it's a challenge to select a photo which you feel others will appreciate, that you yourself like and that you think the judges would be interested in. She reflected that it is really hard to just select just two photos to enter.



The camera she uses now is a Canon 80D with a 100-400 lens. Her advice to new photographers or those considering photography is to find a camera that works well for you and won't break your budget. Also consider trying different settings and lighting, shooting at different times of the day and most importantly learning about the species you're observing. Make sure you have bug spray, sunscreen, a snack and water when you first set out—you never know how long you'll be because things around Wildwood change by the hour! Shannon also manages an online Flickr Group called Wildwood Lake. This group includes 217 members and comprises over 18,000 photographs from the Park! Flickr is one of the best online photo management and digital media sharing sites in the world. It is platforms like these that help get Wildwood Park on the map, recognizing it for the hidden gem it really is.

Winter Lecture Series

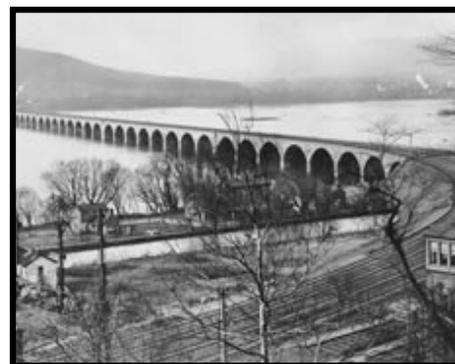
The Friends of Wildwood and Wildwood Staff are eagerly preparing for another interesting and exciting Winter Lecture Series coming up in 2022! The lectures will occur virtually every other Tuesday night beginning on January 11 from 7:00-8:30pm and ending February 22. The lecture topics will center around the Susquehanna River. The schedule is as follows:

January 11 will focus on History and Uses. Over 400 miles in length, the Susquehanna River is the longest river on east of the Mississippi. Starting in southern New York and ending in the Chesapeake Bay, the Susquehanna has provided a means of transportation and exploration for hundreds of years. A treasure in the heart of our community, the Susquehanna provides a glimpse into the past.

January 25 will focus on Geology and Formation. Geology encompasses so much more than rocks and minerals. The Susquehanna River is a unique body of water. Formed hundreds of millions of years ago, geologists have come from various places to study exactly how this river was created, along with the mountains around it. The Susquehanna has not always looked the way it does today; it's slowly been changing over time

February 8 will focus on Species of Ecological Importance (Eels, Freshwater Mussels, and Native Plants). The Susquehanna River is home to a variety of species. Over time, some have become less and less prevalent. Freshwater mussels and American eels are just two species that have experienced a significant decline over the years. However, efforts are being made to increase their population numbers.

February 22 will focus on Recreational Opportunities. Fishing, kayaking, camping – the outdoor recreational opportunities that surround the Susquehanna River are endless. Discover local boating and kayaking outfitters as well as local fishing guide services. If you are new to boating or just need a refresher, learn about fishing and boating regulations on the Susquehanna. The river offers many camping opportunities as well



For a detailed list of speakers, check back this winter on our website.



November 30, 2021

Join the Friends in their annual Giving Tuesday Campaign. Monies raised will be given to Save The Boardwalk. Every dollar counts and makes a difference!

Birds & Coffee

On the second Saturday of the winter months (Dec. 11, Jan. 8, & Feb. 12) from 10:00am–11:00am, join a Naturalist and Appalachian Audubon in observing and counting common feeder birds as part of Project FeederWatch in the Olewine Nature Center. Members from Appalachian Audubon will also be selling bird-friendly coffee to interested patrons. The events are free but please register online at explorewildwoodpark.org/events/.

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!



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



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 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
100 Wildwood Way
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www.explorewildwoodpark.org

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Mark your calendars for
these upcoming events!

Winter
Discovery
Dec. 11—
Jan. 30

Pressed Flower
Valentines
Sat. Feb. 5
10:00am & 11:00am

Advanced
Fly-Tying
Thurs. Feb. 17—
March 24
6:00 pm—8:00 pm