



# A word from Wildwood

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



Explore Wildwood Park's wetlands for our 23rd Annual Wetlands Festival! Join us for a day of free, fun, and educational activities with special musical guests and food trucks. Enjoy wildlife exhibits, walks, and a wide variety of local and regional conservation initiatives. Interact with live animals and make crafts to take home. There is something for everyone!

Featuring: Kids Music by Two of Kind, Folk Music with Maggie Pope and Good Eats With Williams & Ragged Edge Roasting Company.

## Spring Cleaning Craft Needs

If you happen to find yourself in cleaning mode this spring, Wildwood would gladly take the following craft supplies off your hands to be used for Kids Programming and Natural Ornament Workshops throughout the year.

### Craft Needs Most Wanted List Include:

- colored pompoms, small and tiny sized
- dark green pipe cleaners
- thick, wired holiday ribbon
- thin, colored silk ribbon
- wooden or decorative beads
- colorful, natural-looking feathers
- small fabric samples
- paint sample swatches
- sequins of various size and color
- canning jar rims
- buttons of all shapes and sizes
- red and green pony beads
- model magic
- colored raffia

## Build-a-Bug House Workshop

There's still time to join Friends of Wildwood President and craftsman Jim Caufield on *Thursday, March 23 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm*. You'll construct your very own wood bug house using natural garden and woody materials. Everything will be supplied, but feel free to bring dried hollow stems, bark scraps and your cordless drill. Space is limited to 15 participants at \$50 each. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. Register online.



## Redbud Tree Sale

Sunday, April 16 & 23 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Spring is a great time to do improve your backyard landscape and the Friends of Wildwood have just the thing for you! Stop by the Nature Center from 1:00pm - 3:00pm and pick up an Eastern Redbud Tree to take home and plant. Donations are encouraged. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood (check/cash only please).

Supplies are limited. See you there!



## Wild About Dogs!

Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Join the Friends of Wildwood for their second specialized dog event! This will be a unique opportunity to honor your favorite furry friends and celebrate the wonders of Wildwood Park. Complete a fun scavenger hunt with your best friend, engage with local pet-centered vendors, buy some homemade tasty dog and human treats and more! Dog Memberships will be available for purchase during the event. All new and current dog members will receive a special gift. A single dog membership will be free with each human membership purchased. Dogs must be leashed; owners are responsible for and must supervise their dogs at all times. You won't want to miss this!

- B & L Dogz Food Truck
- Blue Mountain Veterinary Care
- Denise's Dapper Dogs Grooming
- Furry Friends Network
- Humane Society of Hbg Area
- Summit Search and Rescue
- Susquehanna Township Police Department K-9 Unit
- Three Dog Bakery



## A word from Wildwood

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Friends of Wildwood

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### Board Officers

Jim Caufield- President

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Shawn Scott - Secretary

Pam Kroh - Treasurer

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## A Word from the President

DID YOU KNOW that Pennsylvania has over 12,000 miles of hiking trails and that approximately 6.0 miles of those are at Wildwood? Wildwood's trails (paved and unpaved), in addition to its boardwalks are among the most popular features of the Park. Whether walking, biking or jogging, visitors to Wildwood's trails enjoy wildlife, scenic vistas, seasonal art installations, fresh air, programming and generally being outdoors.

The boardwalk portions of Wildwood's trails suffered greatly during the storms and flooding of 2020 and 2021. Portions were washed away, bridge supports were undermined and access was significantly reduced. Everyone has been patiently waiting for the repairs of this damage which required extended periods of damage assessment, design development, obtaining funding and contracting. With funding secured from a variety of sources, the good news is that as of early February, the repairs are finally underway. And as we all anxiously await the unveiling of the new boardwalk repairs, I hope to see you at Wildwood.

Jim

## Boardwalk Construction

Boardwalk repairs are underway with plans to re-open in spring 2023. The project includes new boardwalk sections on both the Delta and North boardwalks. These new bridges will be built to better withstand Paxton Creek's floodwaters.

Boardwalk construction will include streambank stabilization at each work site to reduce erosion. Wetland matting will be used for equipment access to limit site disturbance.

Thank You Sponsors:

- Kristen Olewine Milke and Benjamin Olewine IV
- Dauphin County Commissioners Mike Pries, Chad Saylor & George P. Hartwick, III
- Friends of Wildwood
- The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- McCormick Family Foundation
- The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
- Park Visitors

If you haven't yet made a contribution, it's not too late. Your donation will help Friends of Wildwood provide critical boardwalk funding now and for years to come.

Stay up to date with progress on our website at [explorewildwoodpark.org](http://explorewildwoodpark.org)



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 [explorewildwoodpark.org/events](http://explorewildwoodpark.org/events) and questions directed to [wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov)

### County Commissioners

Mike Pries, Chairman

Chad Saylor

George P. Hartwick, III

### Parks and Recreation Director

Anthea Stebbins

### Wildwood Park Staff

Chris Rebert, Park Manager

Richelle Corty, Environmental Educator

Savanna Lenker, Environmental Educator

Theresa Alberici, Part-time Environmental Educator

Carla Eissing, Part-time Environmental Educator

Jessica Picone, Part-time Environmental Educator

Barbara Shunk, Part-time Environmental Educator

## Photo Contest Results

The 2022 Photo Contest has been taken down but not before the judges chose this year's winners in each of our four categories. The annual reception was held on January 15th during which the winners were announced with ribbons and cash prizes awarded. This year each winner also received a one-year membership to the Friends of Wildwood.

A very big thank you to all of the entrants and congratulations to the winners!

### Advanced

- 1st: Curtis Meyers, "Alien Emergence"
- 2nd: Sherri Hendricks, "Springtime"
- 3rd: Jennifer McNeal, "Tender Moment"

### Intermediate

- 1st: Shalini Venkataram, "All Set to Land-3,2,1"
- 2nd: William Ziegler, "HARRRUUMF"
- 3rd: Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah, "Shoo! This is my space"

### Beginner

- 1st: Patricia Marshall, "I Am A Green Heron!"
- 2nd: Arthur Keller, "Tangled"
- 3rd: Jessica Mitchell, "Smother Nature"

### Youth

- 1st: Phoebe Humpton, "Under the Surface"
- 2nd: Blake Pasda, "Snoop Froggy Frog"
- 3rd: Piper Snyder, "Thoughtful Snake"

### People's Choice

- Advanced: Sherri Hendricks, "Uh-Oh... she spotted me"
- Intermediate: Steve Hancock, "The Little Acrobat"
- Beginner: Arthur Keller, "Tangled" and Nancy Laven, "Today's Special: Frog Legs"
- Youth: Piper Snyder, "Thoughtful Snake"



Winning photos, including People's Choice selections, will be on display in the Nature Center over the next few months. Please stop by the Center to view these beautiful photographs.

We thank our dedicated judges Denny Bingaman, Andrew Gehman and Ellen M. Siddons for their time and expertise; and commend the committee members, staff, volunteers and photographers for their continued commitment to bringing the beauty and wonder of Wildwood Park to you!

## 2022 First Place Winners



**Advanced:**  
Curtis Meyers  
*Alien Emergence*



**Intermediate:** Shalini Venkataram  
*All Set to Land- 3,2,1*



**Beginner:**  
Patricia Marshall  
*I Am A Green Heron!*

**Youth:**  
Phoebe Humpton  
*Under the Surface*



## Welcome Carla

Wildwood welcomed a new Part-time Environmental Educator, Carla Eissing, to the staff this winter. She earned her B.S. in Geography/Human-Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University and currently works full-time as the PA Grassroots Manager at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. While at Shippensburg, she interned at the PA Parks and Forests Foundation, did an independent research study on Chambersburg Borough's PA Sustainable Communities designation for the PA Municipal League, and traveled and camped in multiple national parks on a cross country road trip with the Adventure Club. She is a current and active board member of the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association and is a volunteer staff and voting member of Sandy Hollow Arts & Recreation for the Environment (S.H.A.R.E.), an environmental and arts non-profit organization. In her spare time, she skates with the Harrisburg Area Roller Derby League (HARD) and enjoys kayaking, hiking, gardening, seeing live music, and going on adventures with her husband and their rescued greyhound. She's thrilled to be a part of the Wildwood team and to learn more about wildlife and ecology.



## PennState Extension Master Gardeners in Dauphin County

New to gardening or looking to learn something new? Connect with the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners in Dauphin County for practical horticultural information you can trust.

*We offer for Dauphin County residents:*

- Master Gardener Garden Hotline at [dauphinmg@psu.edu](mailto:dauphinmg@psu.edu) or 717-921-8803 to ask your garden questions and get unbiased, research-based answers year-round
- Our annual Spring Symposium, Veggie Series and Home Gardening Series in collaboration with Wildwood Park's Olewine Nature Center
- Master Gardener annual basic training to become a Master Gardener volunteer in Dauphin County
- Horticultural educational outreach at festivals, parks and schools in your community
- Six Dauphin County demonstration gardens you can visit for ideas and inspiration.

Search "Master Gardeners in Dauphin County" or click use the link <https://bit.ly/3ihzQuQ> to keep your eye on us!

## Art in the Wild

### Exhibit Opens & Meet the Artists

Sunday, April 2 from 1:00 pm–3:00 pm

Visit naturally inspired trailside creations along Wildwood Park's wandering trails and wetlands. This year's theme is "The Earth Laughs." A map-brochure about the exhibit will be available online, at the kiosks or inside the Nature Center.

### Winter Lecture Series Success

Planting Trees for Tomorrow inspired us to consider our backyard, no matter the size, as a shared home for a miraculous number of wildlife, as a place to forage for food, as a resource to utilize in all matter of creative ways and as a place to protect and keep for years to come. A special thank you to each of our speakers, the Friends of Wildwood for sponsoring the furthering of our education and for the attendees who left each lecture with an even greater appreciation for trees.

### Species Spotlight: Ruby-crowned Kinglet

This bird, smaller than a chickadee and many warblers is a favorite at Wildwood Park. Typically seen and heard amongst the spicebush shrubs along Wildwood Way in the spring, this fluttery little fellow makes an occasional appearance at the birdfeeders in the winter. Its distinguishing features include a pale white eye-ring, small bill, and white bars on the wing. Their general color is olive-buff overall. If you're lucky you'll get a chance to witness a male trying to impress a female which results in the flashing of its red mohawk crest located atop his head. These birds usually do not remain in one spot for a long period of time. They hop from tree to tree moving quickly through the foliage. They prefer to live amongst dense evergreen forests; however, in the winter it is not uncommon to see them foraging in deciduous stands and parks.



*Photo: Rick Price*

# Upcoming Events

## Online Registration!

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

### Maple Sugar Festival at Fort Hunter Park

Sunday, March 5  
12:00 pm–4:00 pm

How do you identify different maple species?  
How many species can be tapped for syrup?  
What animals eat maple? Find out all the answers to these questions at the Wildwood Park stations at Fort Hunter's Maple Sugar Festival.



Free

### Cat In The Hat Learning Series

Wednesdays, March 8, 15 & 22  
10:00 am–10:45 am

Join an Environmental Educator for fun interactive story session for children ages 3-5. Stories, rhymes, and a craft/activity will introduce science through the eyes of the Cat In The Hat. Classes are offered during 3 consecutive Wednesdays. Register online.

\$5 per child, chaperones free

### Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, March 11 (Litter Clean-Up) & April 8  
10:00 am–1:00 pm

Register online.

Free

### Bird Walks

Wednesday, March 22 meet at the South Lot  
8:00 am–10:00 am

Wed., May 3 & Thurs., June 1 meet at the Nature Center  
7:30 am–9:30 am

Meet Rick and Peggy Price for some morning birding. Register online.

Free

Free

### Skunk Cabbage Walk

Thursday, March 23  
2:30 pm–4:00 pm

Join a Naturalist for a short walk at Detweiler Park to observe Skunk Cabbage. Skunk Cabbage is one of the first flowering plants to emerge after the winter cold. Register online.

\$2 per participant

### Fort Hunter Conservancy Hike

Tuesday, April 4  
2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Join a Naturalist for a strenuous steep, hike at the 153-acre, Fort Hunter Conservancy. Hike through woods and meadows, stopping at the top the mountain to enjoy the view. Register online.

Free

### Kids Discover: Birds and Their Nests (Ages 5-10)

Friday, April 7  
10:00 am–11:30 am

Join a Naturalist for this hands-on program where kids will get to examine nests, search for nests in the Park and make their own small bird's nest to take home. Register online.

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

### Preschool Storytime: Spring at Wildwood!

Wednesday, April 19  
10:00 am–10:45 am

Join a Dauphin County Library System Librarian and Wildwood Environmental Educator for a fun story session for children ages 2-5. Register online.

Free

### Kids Discover: Pollywogs (Ages 5-10)

Thursday, April 20  
2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Join a Naturalist at Detweiler Park for a fun day of pond/creek exploration. Children will have the chance to catch and release tadpoles and other critters in Detweiler Pond using nets. Dress for the weather, water shoes recommended but not required. Register online.

\$5 per child, chaperones free

### Historical Tree Walk at Fort Hunter Park

Tuesday, May 2  
2:30 pm–4:30 pm

Join a Naturalist for a leisurely walk to learn one method for aging a live tree and some historical facts about these large giants. Meet on the lawn in front of the Mansion. Register online.

Free

### Spring Flower Walk

Thursday, May 4  
2:30 pm–4:00 pm

Join a Naturalist for a leisurely afternoon walk within the meadows and forests of Detweiler Park. Register online.

\$2 per participant

### Wild Recipes: Spring Foraging in Your Backyard

Tuesday, May 9  
6:00 pm–7:30 pm

Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to cook with a few spring ephemerals to spice up your diet. Register online.

\$20 per participant

### Kids Discover: Creek Critters at Fort Hunter Park (Ages 5-10)

Saturday, May 13  
4:00 pm–5:30 pm

Join a Naturalist at Fort Hunter Park for a fun evening exploration of Fishing Creek. Children will have the chance to discover what lives in the water and learn about macroinvertebrates. Dress for the weather and park in the lot behind the historic Gas Station. Water shoes recommended but not required. Register online.

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

### Redesigned Barn Shutter Workshop

Thursday, May 18  
6:00 pm–7:30 pm

Design your own decorative wooden shutter sign or photo display using repurposed antique shutters. Shutters are hinged 40"x8.5" and two-paneled. Each participant will receive one shutter to redesign. Everything including stencils and hardware will be provided. Workshop is limited to 15 participants. Register online.

\$40 per participant



### Girl Scouts Outdoor Art

Saturday, May 20  
10:00 am–2:00 pm

Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors Scouts are invited to meet and work with an artist, take a hike for ideas and create their own art to fulfill most, if not all, requirements for their appropriate badge. Examine a few Art In The Wild installations created along the trails and contribute to an upcycled bottle-cap mural to be displayed at Wildwood. Register online.

\$12 per scout, chaperones are free

### Spring Tree ID at Wildwood or Detweiler Parks

Monday, May 22  
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Discover how to identify trees using leaves, flowers and much more. Register online.

Free

### Kids Discover: Photography (Ages 8-11) or (Ages 12-14)

Saturday, June 3  
10 am–12 pm or 1 pm–3 pm

Learn about photography concepts and explore Wildwood Park with a new perspective. Complete a photo scavenger hunt and practice editing your photos. A camera, smart phone or tablet is required for this program. Participants will be asked to download a free editing app. Register online.

\$8 per child, chaperones are free

### Daisies & Brownies: Shapes in Nature

Sunday, June 4  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

During this program scouts will investigate Wildwood Park to discover patterns in insects, leaves, spiders and their webs. They will also observe the many colors of birds and record their findings on a chart or graph. Register online.

\$12 per scout, chaperones are free

## Volunteer Spotlight: Gene Wingert

Gene remembers Wildwood in the 60's when the trails were open for the taking and many a nefarious deed was committed. We won't ask him *how* he knows all this! A decade later, he began taking a closer look at the wildlife in the Park, noting the different flora and fauna. Observing his surroundings is something that developed at an early age. He recalled being interviewed in 1992 to give his expertise on wildlife in the Park as part of the Natural Resource Inventory and Management Plan for the Wildwood Property.

Before there was a Nature Center, Gene joined the board racking in over 25+ years volunteering at Wildwood. In addition to serving many years on the Friends of Wildwood Board, Gene has also spent a great deal of time since 2011 doing research on turtles in the Park with students, focusing particularly on population demographics, species trends and how snapping turtle/stink pot turtles are affected by climate change. The Canal was chosen as an idea sample location due to its increased depth to that of the Lake and its ability to act as a refugium for many species during the wintertime. The Towpath Trail itself also allows for easy access. Additionally, areas such as the Mulch Pile along the Towpath are literal treasure troves for attracting nesting snapping turtles and stink pots for research purposes.

A dedicated life of education began locally at Shippensburg University with a Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences which was later followed by a Master of Education in Biology. From there he taught a variety of science courses for 35 years at Cumberland Valley High School. While at CV, he taught adults for 10 years in the evenings for the Wilson Planet Earth Program geared towards career advancement. He also taught Environmental Science and a variety of Biology courses including Human Bio for Pre-Nursing Students for 25 years at HACC. And he's been teaching at Dickinson University since 1991 in a variety of capacities focusing mostly on Environmental Science and Field Courses. He truly treasures the years of research done at Wildwood Park, reflecting on one student who went on to work for USGS studying Kemps Ridley Sea Turtles, even naming one after Gene.

In closing he reflected on how much he has enjoyed collaborating with folks from SO many different backgrounds on the board. Collectively they come each month to assess the needs of the Park from a legal, recreational, economical and a biological standpoint in order to maintain the magic of Wildwood. It is in parks like this that the wildlife has become acclimated to people and thus your chance of witnessing them exhibiting their natural behaviors is increased, resulting in a truly remarkable snapshot into their private lives. Thanks Gene; keep up the great work!



*Photo: Sammy Garcia, Erin Kennaly (summer interns), Gene & Walter Meshaka*

## Hats Off to Cara!

Flower and tree walk volunteer educator, Cara Martinez-Williams, will be retiring this spring. We have all learned a lot from Cara over the years. The monthly flower and tree walks Cara lead were wildly popular and provided educational opportunities for hundreds of attendees annually.

Cara's legacy will continue as new flower walk leadership develops. In reflecting on 23 years as a Wildwood volunteer, Cara noted how it was interesting to see landscapes change over time. Flowers and plants came and went. Some native plants thrived while others were over-crowded and diminished. Early spring ephemeral wildflowers, for example, ebbed and flowed. 2022 was a great spring for dutchman's breeches, early saxifrage, spring beauties and others while 2019 and 2020 these same plants were noticeably reduced in above ground presentations.

Cara also noted that non-native and invasive species have had a direct impact to the Park. Additionally, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), was another huge loss- losing nearly all the ash within the Park. Five of these large trees remain healthy in the Park thanks to the Friends of Wildwood investing in the treatment of EAB since 2014. The most obvious is the tree adjacent to the outdoor restroom by the Nature Center.

Cara also published a field guide to the Wildflowers of Wildwood Park in 2017. This publication includes beautiful photos (Harry Watts) and descriptions of over 150 wildflowers found in the Park. It is available for purchase in the Nature Shop.



Cara, we hope we'll continue to see you at festivals and volunteering with your grandkids at the Front Desk. Thank you for investing SO much of your time along the trails of Wildwood Park, head towards the plants in search of the smallest delicate blooms and massive towering giants. Your mark will not be soon forgotten.

## Save The Date: Volunteer Appreciation Event

All Friends of Wildwood Volunteers are invited to a special event at Fort Hunter Park on the evening of Tuesday, June 27 with a rain date of Thursday, June 29. More information will be forthcoming!



**Junior Naturalist Day Camp (Ages 9-11)  
Monday, July 17—Friday, July 21**

**Outdoor Week (ages 12-14)  
Monday, July 31—Friday, August 4**

*Camps are \$165 per child and run  
9:00 am—3:00 pm*

*Space is limited, register online at  
explorewildwoodpark.org/summer-day-camps/*

*Many camps are already at capacity. For next  
year, registration begins in early January.*



**Environmental Pioneers  
(Ages 15-17)**

**Thursday July 6 &  
Friday, July 7  
9:00 am—3:00 pm  
Cost is \$65 per teen**



Interested in receiving weekly emails on programming in all Dauphin County Parks? Scan this QR code with your smartphone and click on the yellow “E-Newsletter Sign-Up” Button.

## Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 ways to give to Wildwood.

All are tax deductible.

Details at [www.explorewildwoodpark.org/support/](http://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 100 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 Nature Shop purchases
- Knowing you:
  - Support outdoor educational opportunities and programs that reach 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

## Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically

*A Word from Wildwood*

can be sent electronically to Friends of Wildwood members.

Email [wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov)



## 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  
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explorewildwoodpark.org

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Mark your calendars for  
these upcoming events!

Art In The Wild  
Exhibit Opens  
Sun. April 2  
Dawn—Dusk

Wetlands Festival  
Sat. April 29  
10:00am—4:00pm

Wild About Dogs  
Sat. May 13  
10:00am—2:00pm



30% Recycled post-consumer fiber