Nature Center Interpretive Master Plan Launched

It’s hard to believe the Olewine Nature Center’s public Exhibit Hall is approaching its 25th birthday. Built in 1999, the Nature Center and Exhibits have withstood the test of time. Since the grand opening, over half a million visitors have taken the opportunity to peruse the Exhibit Hall and enjoy all its offerings. The popular exhibits continue to function beautifully to this day – exhibits like the well-known wetland diorama with a tunnel for children, the Discovery Room for pre-kindergarteners, and the Bird Viewing Area for everyone to enjoy year-round birding up close. Other exhibits are beginning to show some age. Several exhibits were replaced or updated over the years, on an ad-hoc basis, to keep the visitor experience fresh, but the need is apparent for a long-term plan for larger, more extensive updates.

To this end, Friends of Wildwood have launched an Exhibit Hall Interpretive Master Plan. Beginning in November 2022, representatives of the Friends of Wildwood Board of Directors and Park Staff will be working with a team from Gecko Group, Inc. This team will collaborate over the next twelve months to plan for future exhibit hall updates while considering a more cohesive approach to the entire visitor experience in the building. We are very excited to enter this phase of development and welcome public input.

Friends of Wildwood Bus Trip: Off the Beaten Path, Part II

Save the Date for Sunday, February 19, 2023
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Friends of Wildwood invite you to join us on our second “Off the Beaten Path” bus trip. From the comfort and warmth of a chartered mini-bus, you will be transported to and experience:

- Guided birding with our very own Rick and Peggy Price during peak season at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. Experience the splendor of the Snow Goose and waterfowl migration winter extravaganza!
- The treasures of PA wolves in their natural landscape. During our guided tour of the Wolf Sanctuary of PA, we will meet the packs, hear the wolves’ stories and learn about wolf conservation and biology.
- The Lititz Fire and Ice Festival during opening weekend. View the wow-worthy ice sculptures and grab yummy food from downtown restaurants and food trucks. There will be plenty of shopping in the warmth of the unique Lititz downtown shops.

All participants will receive a specially curated gift bag to provide comfort during and memories of our special experience. Bring a packed lunch, snacks and beverages to eat on the bus between the Middle Creek and Wolf Sanctuary sites. Pre-registration required by Monday, February 13. Covid protocols will be observed based upon recommendations at the time of the trip. Register at explorewildwoodpark.org/events/. Cost is $70 for Members, $80 for Non-Members.

Friends of Wildwood Merchandise Available Online!

Show your support for Wildwood Park by sporting some Wildwood-themed apparel! Order at your convenience from our online store at tinyurl.com/yckv66e.

Orders will take 2 weeks to process and will be available for pick-up at the Nature Center after email confirmation. Or they will be shipped to you for additional costs. All sales are final and all proceeds directly benefit the projects and programs sponsored by the Friends of Wildwood.

Painting at the Park

Please join the Friends of Wildwood for our sixth annual Painting at the Park, directed by Jenn Brown from Jenn’s Craft Parties. Jenn will lead participants through the creation of a moonlight boardwalk painting! All experience levels are welcome, and all materials will be provided. Come by yourself, with family, friends, your significant other...all are welcome. You will surely have fun and leave with a one-of-a-kind piece. All proceeds benefit Wildwood Park. Workshop limited to 30 participants. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Cost is $25 per participant.
A Word from the President

They say, “time flies when you are having fun.” We must’ve been having a ton of fun at Wildwood this year, as 2022 has gone by in the blink of an eye! We had the opportunity to reflect on our busy, yet fun year, which included our first annual Wild About Dogs event and Off the Beaten Path Bus Trip along with our annual traditional events, during our Annual Membership Meeting on November 3rd, with a hybrid format. An election of Officers and Board members, including new Board members, Carol Buck, Patricia Cattuitti, Lee Johnson, Dr. Walter Meshaka and Mary Nancarrow was also held. Catherine Scott, Penn State Extension Master Gardener Coordinator, engaged the meeting audience with an informative presentation on those pesky Spotted Lanternflies and we are all now more skilled at how to identify their favorite tree species, Tree-of-Heaven.

2023 is shaping up to be another exciting and event-filled year at Wildwood Park with the support of the Friends and hopefully won’t go by so quickly. The annual Photo Contest photos will be on display at the Nature Center next month and shortly after, the long-running annual Winter Lecture Series will kick off. This year’s theme is Planting Trees for Tomorrow.

In anticipation of the upcoming construction of the long-anticipated North and Delta Boardwalk replacement bridges, this year’s Painting at the Park will be held on Saturday, January 21st and will highlight a winter boardwalk painting. more on page 1

On Sunday, February 19th, we’ll be braving the cold for the Off the Beaten Path Par II bus trip to some season-specific activities in Lancaster County. And those are just the plans for the first quarter of next year! Be sure to review the rest of the newsletter to keep up with all of the event details and to visit our website: explorewildwoodpark.org to register for these as well as the many other programs and events.

It has been an honor to serve on and lead the Friends of Wildwood Board. This dedicated, hardworking, multi-talented and resilient group of individuals works well together with the best interests of the Park in mind. Without the strong collaboration between the Board and the Park Staff along with the support from our Friends and donors, Wildwood would not be what it is today and will be in the future.

See you around Wildwood in 2023!

Heather
**Park Highlights**

**Photo Contest Enhanced!**
Photographs taken at any one of the six Dauphin County Parks including: Wildwood Park, Fort Hunter Park, Detweiler Park, Lykens Glen, Wiconisco Creek Park and Fort Hunter Conservancy are being accepted in this year’s Photo Contest until Saturday, December 3. The photos will be hung in the Olweine Nature Center from December through January, 28. The photographs will be judged and the winners announced on January, 15. Be sure to stop by to view the stunning displays of nature in our parks!

**Save The Boardwalk**
Thanks to all of the project partners, funding is secured for boardwalk repairs to begin! Wetland permits have been obtained, the project was bid with contract awarded, and construction is planned to begin this winter/early spring to re-build the two boardwalk sections stronger than before. If you haven’t yet made a contribution, it’s not too late. Donors over $500 will receive special recognition. Your donation will help the Friends close the final gap of our fundraising goal, which is to provide funding support for the boardwalks now and in the future.

*Project Sponsors:*
- Kristen Olewine Milke and Benjamin Olewine IV
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Dauphin County Commissioners
- McCormick Family Foundation
- The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
- Friends of Wildwood

Donate conveniently and safely at explorewildwoodpark.org/donate-now/. Additional project updates will be posted on our website.

**United Way Day of Caring**
On September 9th, Wildwood Park hosted a group from Erie Insurance as part of United Way Day of Caring. This group of 13 volunteers worked on the northernmost section of the East Shore Trail. They worked for four hours, with mattocks, shovels, sledge hammers, logs and stakes to level the trail and incorporate erosion protection measures. Take a walk and enjoy this less traveled trail. Thank you to each and every participant!

**Keystone Trails Association Assistance during Volunteer Work Day**
One of our longest running programs is Volunteer Work Day. For more than twenty years, this service day has provided opportunities for the public to lend a hand to Wildwood, with a focus on outdoor habitat enhancement projects. The accumulated number of volunteer hours is to be applauded.

In November, Keystone Trails Association (KTA) partnered with Dauphin County Parks and Recreation for an even more successful work day. Based locally, KTA is a statewide non-profit organization that protects and promotes recreational hiking trails in Pennsylvania.

KTA spearheaded the installation of several much needed rock drains on the East Shore Trail. These drains help reduce erosion and trail saturation. They also protect and help maintain the fragile wet areas along the trail - home to seldom seen & secretive amphibian species.

Thank you to all the Volunteer Work Day volunteers for your help!

*Pictured: Spotted Salamander and Northern Red Salamander*
Upcycled Turtle Installation

Each year hundreds of pounds of litter are collected in and around Wildwood Park. In light of this on a sunny day in mid September, sculptors Jill Lippert, a local artist, and Timothy Shatto, Lieutenant for the Swatara Police Department, installed an upcycled snapping turtle sculpture. Upcycle is a verb which means reuse of old materials to make something new of greater value than the original. The sculpture was fabricated using old barn roofing, rototiller tines, shovels, an old sickle blade and other “treasures”.

This turtle sculpture was created to bring awareness to litter and highlight how volunteers are making a difference by helping Wildwood in three ways:

CLEAN. Volunteers participated in litter clean ups.

COLLABORATE. Volunteers filled the sculpture with collected litter.

COMMUNICATE. Volunteers communicated the sculpture’s purpose - clean habitats for people and wildlife.

The hollow belly of the turtle is a container for the collected trash, spotlighting the juxtaposition of creature versus litter. We hope to fill the belly of the turtle with collected litter from around Wildwood Park on Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 10:00am—1:00pm in conjunction with the first Volunteer Work Day of the year. This day will be dedicated primarily to picking up litter which has accumulated during the winter months. Save the date and help us fill “Bradley” the turtle!

Public Meeting:
Wildwood Lake Dredging Plan

Tune in on Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm to learn the results of a design and planning project on how to restore Wildwood Lake. Funded by a DEP Growing Greener grant, this project studied Wildwood Lake and detailed how restoration and dredging could be accomplished. The meeting will take a virtual format. A meeting link will be emailed to Friends’ members or can be obtained by visiting explorewildwoodpark.org

Art in the Wild

Calling all artists! Applications for Art In The Wild 2023 will be accepted now until Friday, January 20, 2023. The theme this year: The Earth Laughs. Applications are available online at explorewildwoodpark.org or hard copy at the Front Desk of the Olewine Nature Center. Any interested artists can submit their application to Richelle Corty, Exhibit Contact, electronically to rcorty@dauphincounty.gov, in-person at the Olewine Nature Center, or via snail mail to:

Richelle Corty, Environmental Educator
Wildwood Park
100 Wildwood Way
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Species Spotlight: Wood Duck

Is there any sight more stunning than the colors of a wood ducks feathers? Or maybe it’s the red eye on the drake that blows you away. Either way, their eloquence is hard to miss. This fall we’ve witnessed quite a few wood ducks on the Lake, a welcome sight for any photographer. Wood ducks nest in tree cavities or man-made boxes. We have a few such boxes in the Park, easily recognized by their large size. Wood duck boxes may be used in a tree in a wide range of heights from 2–60 feet and generally not over a mile away from a freshwater body. They feed on a variety of seeds, fruits and insects primarily found near water. In the absence of aquatic foods they may forage on land. Females possess a prominent, extended white patch around their eyes with mottled, spotty, grayish flanks. Mature male feathers contain just about all the colors of the rainbow. Their rounded head and drooping crest is enhanced by their bright red eye. In the air it is noticeable that they have long tails and short bills. An exotic “look alike” is the Mandarin Duck. Females have been known to participate in what is called “Egg Dumping” or species specific brood parasitism where they will purposefully lay their eggs in another wood ducks nest. A typical clutch size is 10–11 eggs, however, that number has been known to as much as double in size due to the additions of the neighbors. Regardless of their habits towards their own species, Wildwood is fond of its residents.

Photo: Artists Tim & Jill
Photo: Larry Imes
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.

Owl Prowl
Friday, December 2 at Wiconisco Creek Park
5:30 pm–7:30 pm  $2 per participant
Discover WHO may be calling in the night and the eight different species of owls found in Pennsylvania. This prowl will focus on using our sense of hearing while listening for responses to owl calls. Dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. Register online.

Natural Ornaments
Sundays, December 4 & 11
10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm  $8 per participant
Children and adults are invited to make holiday ornaments using pinecones, milkweed pods and other natural materials. Register online.

Winter Edibles Walk
Thursday, January 12
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. Dress for the weather. Register online.

Birds & Coffee
Saturdays: Dec. 11, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11 & April 8
10:00 am–11:00 am  Free
Stop by the Nature Center Bird Viewing Area for a warm cup of bird-friendly coffee, tea or hot cocoa with Appalachian Audubon Society. Discover what birds visit our feeders most often and learn how to identify each one while participating in Project FeederWatch. Register online.

Kids Discover Super Sniffers (Ages 6-10)
Saturday, January 7
10:30 am–12:00 pm  $5 per child, chaperones are free
Did you know some animals can smell food a mile away or fly 600 miles without stopping? Join a Naturalist to explore the super feats of animals found in our state around the world, followed by a chance to create your own super, amazing animal! Register online.

Wild Recipes: Winter Foraging in Your Backyard
Tuesday, February 28
6:00 pm–7:30 pm  $20 per participant
Curious about edible plants and how to utilize them to create yummy winter recipes? Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to make shagbark hickory syrup and a variety of winter teas. Samples of each edible treat will be provided. Register online.

Wild Edibles Walk
Thursday, January 12
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. Dress for the weather. Register online.

Rocks & Blocks Workshop
Saturday, January 28
9:00 am, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm  $25 per participant
Join Raymond Curanzy III a local artist and woodworker for a 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. Choose from 3 timeslots each limited to 15 people. Register online.

Spring Wreath Workshop
Saturday, March 11
8:30 am, 10:15 am, 12:00 pm & 1:45 pm  $25 per wreath
Decorate a spring wreath out of natural materials. Everything will be supplied to make a wreath with decorations from nature, including cones, nuts and seed pods. Select from a variety of wreath bases including grape vines and wire frames. Register online.

Preschool Storytime: Winter at Wildwood!
Wednesday, February 1
10:00 am – 10:45 am  Free
Join a Dauphin County Library System Librarian and Wildwood Environmental Educator for a fun story session for children ages 2-5. Space is limited. Register online.

Kids Discover: Owls
Saturday, February 4
1:00 pm–3:00 pm  $8 per child, chaperones are free
Did Phil see his shadow and announce 6 more weeks of winter? Where do animals spend the winter? Join a Naturalist to discover more about groundhogs and wintertime. A walk will follow, where we will search for signs of other burrowing animals. Register online.

Kids Discover: Groundhogs (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 4
10:00 am–11:30 am (Ages 4-6) 1:30 pm–3:00 pm (Ages 7-10)  $5 per child, chaperones are free
WHOOOOO is ready to learn about Masters of the Night? Discover PA groundhogs by seeing and hearing their feathers and calls. Become a lab scientist by dissecting an owl pellet to discover what owls eat. Register online.

Kids Discover: Mammals (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 25
1:30 pm–3:00 pm  $5 per child, chaperones are free
Discover the tracks, wildlife signs and habitats of the many diverse mammals in Pennsylvania. Adventure on a hike to search for tracks and other signs these mammals may have left behind. Register online.

Kids Discover: All About Mammals (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 25
1:30 pm–3:00 pm  $5 per child, chaperones are free
Join Dolores McGee, for an evening workshop in the Wildwood Park. Dolores will provide a brief history and overview on the Japanese practice of Kokedama, a method of wrapping the root ball of small plants in moss providing a sort of wooden garden. Workshop limited to 15 participants. Pre-registration required by Thursday, February 16 online.

American Pickle Workshop
Saturday, February 25
10:00 am–11:30 am (Ages 4-6) 1:30 pm–3:00 pm (Ages 7-10)  $20 per participant
Become a lab scientist by dissecting an owl pellet to discover what owls eat. Register online.

Japanese Kokedama Workshop
Thursday, February 23
6:00 pm–8:00 pm  $65 per participant
Join Dolores McGee, for an evening workshop in the Wildwood Park. Dolores will provide a brief history and overview on the Japanese practice of Kokedama, a method of wrapping the root ball of small plants in moss providing a sort of wooden garden. Workshop limited to 15 participants. Pre-registration required by Thursday, February 16 online.

Kids Discover: Woodpeckers (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, March 4
1:30 pm–3:00 pm  $5 per child, chaperones are free
Do woodpeckers get headaches? Learn all about woodpeckers and their adaptations. Discover what they eat, where they live and make a woodpecker craft. A walk will follow where we will search for signs of woodpeckers in Wildwood Park. Dress for the weather. Register online.

Kids Discover: All About Mammals (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 5
10:00 am – 10:45 am  Free
Join a Dauphin County Library System Librarian and Wildwood Environmental Educator for a fun story session for children ages 2-5. Space is limited. Register online.

Glass Workshop
Thursday, January 12
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. Follow self-guided signs along the Towpath Trail to enhance your winter outdoor experience while learning about the natural history of Wildwood Park and animals in winter.

Birds & Coffee
Saturdays: Dec. 11, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11 & April 8
10:00 am–11:00 am  Free
Stop by the Nature Center Bird Viewing Area for a warm cup of bird-friendly coffee, tea or hot cocoa with Appalachian Audubon Society. Discover what birds visit our feeders most often and learn how to identify each one while participating in Project FeederWatch. Register online.

Kids Discover: Groundhogs (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 4
10:00 am–11:30 am (Ages 4-6) 1:30 pm–3:00 pm (Ages 7-10)  $8 per child, chaperones are free
WHOOOOO is ready to learn about Masters of the Night? Discover PA owls by seeing and hearing their feathers and calls. Become a lab scientist by dissecting an owl pellet to discover what owls eat. Register online.

Kids Discover: Owls
Saturday, February 4
1:00 pm–3:00 pm  $8 per child, chaperones are free
Did Phil see his shadow and announce 6 more weeks of winter? Where do animals spend the winter? Join a Naturalist to discover more about groundhogs and wintertime. A walk will follow, where we will search for signs of other burrowing animals. Register online.

Kids Discover: Groundhogs (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 4
10:00 am–11:30 am (Ages 4-6) 1:30 pm–3:00 pm (Ages 7-10)  $8 per child, chaperones are free
WHOOOOO is ready to learn about Masters of the Night? Discover PA groundhogs by seeing and hearing their feathers and calls. Become a lab scientist by dissecting an owl pellet to discover what owls eat. Register online.

Japanese Kokedama Workshop
Thursday, February 23
6:00 pm–8:00 pm  $65 per participant
Join Dolores McGee, for an evening workshop in the Wildwood Park. Dolores will provide a brief history and overview on the Japanese practice of Kokedama, a method of wrapping the root ball of small plants in moss providing a sort of wooden garden. Workshop limited to 15 participants. Pre-registration required by Thursday, February 16 online.

Kids Discover: All About Mammals (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, February 25
1:30 pm–3:00 pm  $5 per child, chaperones are free
Discover the tracks, wildlife signs and habitats of the many diverse mammals in Pennsylvania. Adventure on a hike to search for tracks and other signs these mammals may have left behind. Register online.

Wild Recipes: Winter Foraging in Your Backyard
Tuesday, February 28
6:00 pm–7:30 pm  $20 per participant
Curious about edible plants and how to utilize them to create yummy winter recipes? Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to make shagbark hickory syrup and a variety of winter teas. Samples of each edible treat will be provided. Register online.

Kids Discover: Woodpeckers (Ages 5-10)
Saturday, March 4
1:30 pm–3:00 pm  $5 per child, chaperones are free
Do woodpeckers get headaches? Learn all about woodpeckers and their adaptations. Discover what they eat, where they live and make a woodpecker craft. A walk will follow where we will search for signs of woodpeckers in Wildwood Park. Dress for the weather. Register online.

Spring Wreath Workshop
Saturday, March 11
8:30 am, 10:15 am, 12:00 pm & 1:45 pm  $25 per wreath
Decorate a spring wreath out of natural materials. Everything will be supplied to make a wreath with decorations from nature, including cones, nuts and seed pods. Select from a variety of wreath bases including grape vines and wire frames. Register online.
Volunteer Spotlight: Rick & Peggy Price

Rick and Peggy Price have been volunteers at Wildwood for the past 10 years, after they responded to a request from a Wildwood Staff Member to the Appalachian Audubon Society for volunteers to lead bird walks. As former board members of the local Audubon chapter, they answered the call and began leading bird walks at Wildwood, a labor of love they still continue today. In addition to leading walks at the Park, they will soon be leading their first bird walk for the Friends of Wildwood (they are members) as part of the February Bus Trip to Lancaster County. There they will make a stop to view the annual Snow Goose Migration Spectacle at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. more on page 1 They are also looking forward to the trip as they have never been to the Wolf Sanctuary near Lititz, another stop on the bus tour.

After several years of leading bird walks, the Prices were asked to help greet guests at the Nature Center Front Desk, which they also continue to enjoy. One reason they continue to do it, is because of the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff. Peggy too is especially skilled in convincing visitors to make purchases at the Nature Shop, since she seems to have bought almost one of everything for her grandkids! Rick, on the other hand, looks forward to the annual Photo Contest, where he submits his best pictures from the Park and gets to enjoy the work of others. more on page 3

When asked to share their favorite memories of Wildwood, of course it involved the birds! Peggy told about the day there was a warbler fallout at Wildwood (9/30/2021). After covering the Towpath, the North Boardwalk, and even the area around the Nature Center, they were able to identify 31 warblers of 6 different species, while estimating at least another hundred that just moved too quickly to identify, a common challenge for experienced birders witnessing migration of very active small song birds. They seemed to be everywhere you looked! This only occurs when the length of day and the winds are right for a fallout. It’s every birder’s dream.

Rick offered another memory of a spring bird walk they led on the North Boardwalk, where a novice birder asked, “What is that gray bird with the big orange bill?” When Rick saw the rare Virginia Rail he lost his cool and got excited. Luckily one of our participants, a fellow Wildwood volunteer, caught it all on video and posted it on YouTube. It was hard to tell which was funnier, the rail running back and forth from side to side under the boardwalk, or the excitement in Rick’s voice.

When asked why they keep coming back, Peggy added that there’s nowhere else I go where it takes 3 hours to walk 2 miles - because you’re stopping to view the birds and stopping to talk to people you meet along the trail. And Rick said, It really is a gem nestled between an urban and suburban area. There’s always something to learn at Wildwood, or someone to learn from! They both agreed - It’s just a wonderful place to visit.

Winter Lecture Series: Planting Trees for Tomorrow

We are excited to announce the theme for our 2023 Friends of Wildwood Winter Lecture Series: Planting Trees for Tomorrow, answering a wide array of questions dealing with all-things-trees. This series has been a winter favorite for many years and we’re so glad it’s back again this year! Stay tuned for more specific details and registration information in the upcoming weeks. Register at explorewildwoodpark.org/events/.

What species should I plant?
Tuesday, January 10, 2023, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Backyard trees can provide so much more than just shade in the summer. But sometimes knowing which species to plant can be a challenge. Tune in to learn more about specific species and the habitats in which they thrive, to benefit not only you, the homeowner, but the neighboring wildlife as well.

Can I eat that?
Tuesday, January 24, 2023, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Many folks miss the edible bounty their backyard can supply, or they simply are not aware of how to utilize the resources at their disposal. Tune in to learn a few recipes, how to tap a maple tree and which species wildlife and humans can consume.

When do they need cut down?
Tuesday, February 7, 2023, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Knowing when to maintain the trees in your backyard is a time sensitive matter. What limbs pose a threat to my home? What species generally drop limbs more than others? And what can I do with the remaining wood that was harvested?

How do I preserve my land for the future?
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Sometimes the land we possess reaches beyond the here and now. Sometimes it can leave a legacy for future generations. Tune in to learn more about certified “animal friendly” habitats and what methods can be undertaken to ensure the conservation of your land in perpetuity.

Cheers & Welcome!

The Friends of Wildwood Board waves farewell to several dedicated board members including: Heather Dock, Nancy Graham, Emily Hand, Errin McCaulley and Gene Wingert. The commitment of this batch goes beyond words and it is only with the knowledge that we will continue to see them around the Park that we can say goodbye for now. We expect their continued support in the Nature Shop, weeding the gardens, researching turtles on the Towpath and planning amazing future events for all to enjoy!

The Board is happy to welcome back a few returning members including: Lee Johnson for her third term, Dr. Walter “Walt” Meshaka for his third term and is pleased to welcome Carol Buck, Patricia Cattuitti, and Mary Nancarrow for their first term. The future is bright and we’re excited to see it unfold.

We are also looking forward to the trip as they have never been to the Wolf Sanctuary near Lititz, another stop on the bus tour.

After several years of leading bird walks, the Prices were asked to help greet guests at the Nature Center Front Desk, which they also continue to enjoy. One reason they continue to do it, is because of the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff. Peggy too is especially skilled in convincing visitors to make purchases at the Nature Shop, since she seems to have bought almost one of everything for her grandkids! Rick, on the other hand, looks forward to the annual Photo Contest, where he submits his best pictures from the Park and gets to enjoy the work of others. more on page 3

When asked to share their favorite memories of Wildwood, of course it involved the birds! Peggy told about the day there was a warbler fallout at Wildwood (9/30/2021). After covering the Towpath, the North Boardwalk, and even the area around the Nature Center, they were able to identify 31 warblers of 6 different species, while estimating at least another hundred that just moved too quickly to identify, a common challenge for experienced birders witnessing migration of very active small song birds. They seemed to be everywhere you looked! This only occurs when the length of day and the winds are right for a fallout. It’s every birder’s dream.

Rick offered another memory of a spring bird walk they led on the North Boardwalk, where a novice birder asked, “What is that gray bird with the big orange bill?” When Rick saw the rare Virginia Rail he lost his cool and got excited. Luckily one of our participants, a fellow Wildwood volunteer, caught it all on video and posted it on YouTube. It was hard to tell which was funnier, the rail running back and forth from side to side under the boardwalk, or the excitement in Rick’s voice.

When asked why they keep coming back, Peggy added that there’s nowhere else I go where it takes 3 hours to walk 2 miles - because you’re stopping to view the birds and stopping to talk to people you meet along the trail. And Rick said, It really is a gem nestled between an urban and suburban area. There’s always something to learn at Wildwood, or someone to learn from! They both agreed - It’s just a wonderful place to visit.
In Memory of Alice Eckardt and Allen Marshall

Alice Eckardt and Allen Marshall, former Wildwood volunteers, recently passed away after a life full of love and admiration for the natural world. Alice and Allen were some of the first volunteers at the Nature Center. Their welcoming smiles have forever left their mark.

Thank you both for sharing your love of the natural world with us all!

Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 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 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 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

Get Your Holiday Shopping Done at Wildwood Park

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

Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically

A Word from Wildwood

can be sent electronically to Friends of Wildwood members.

Email 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.
Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Public Meeting with HRG: Lake Dredging Update  
Tues. Dec. 13  
7:00pm—9:00pm

Rocks & Blocks Workshop  
Sat. Jan. 28  
9:00am—2:30pm

Friends of Wildwood Bus Trip  
Sun. Feb. 19  
8:00am—5:00pm