

A word from Wildwood

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

Give Back - 25 Years of Nature!

Since its inception, the Nature Center has had volumes of support from donors, partners, members and individuals. In celebration of the Olewine Nature Center's 25th Anniversary, we are planning to give back to our community throughout the year to acknowledge this milestone.

This spring, a scholarship program was launched to cover the cost of field trips to the Nature Center & Park for locally underfunded schools.

We are excited to celebrate this special occasion and the community that has supported our endeavors over the last 25 years.

We would like to hear from you!

How has the Nature Center given back to you?

Email wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov

Educator Workshops

Wildwood will offer two Educator Workshops for any educator interested in teaching about aquatic wildlife & ecology such as: classroom teachers, non-formal educators, college students studying to be teachers (pre-service), school administrators, homeschool teachers and youth leaders. Morning refreshments and snack provided. ACT 48 hours are available for PA Certified Teachers. The workshops will be held indoors and outdoors and are limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration is required online and is \$25 per participant.

Endangered Species Educator Workshop Thursday, April 11 from 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Join Educators from Wildwood Park and DCNR- PA State Parks to explore the concepts and issues surrounding threatened and endangered species, investigate “how” and “why” species become endangered and threatened, examine laws affecting these species and discover methods biologists are using to help species recover. Participants will take a short hike to explore the importance of wetlands to many endangered species and to get a close-up view of the endangered Great Egret.

Aquatic Wild Educator Workshop Tuesday, August 6 from 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Join Educators from Wildwood Park and DCNR- PA State Parks to explore water habitats from wetlands and streams to oceans. Discover aquatic plant and animal adaptations, prepare to get wet examining aquatic organisms, determine the importance of riparian zones and investigate real-world issues affecting earth's water systems. Participants will receive the *Aquatic WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide*.



Explore Wildwood Park's wetlands for our 24th 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. Tour the Butterflies of North America collection. Interact with live animals and make crafts to take home. There is something for everyone!

Featuring: Kids Music with Holly Serio, Folk Music with Tanjo & Crow, Live Animals with Miller's Wildlife and Conservation Specialists, Williams & Torina Mobile Italian Café.



Wild About Dogs!

Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Join the Friends of Wildwood for their third 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!

Caring Hearts Pet Therapy
Susquehanna Township Police Department K-9 Unit
Three Dog Bakery

A word from Wildwood

is published quarterly by

Friends of Wildwood

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explorewildwoodpark.org

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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 and questions directed to wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov

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A Word from the President

As many of us know, the Wildwood 'lake' (really a wetlands) is the topic of much discussion and planning for its future. But do you know the basics of this feature's history and how the hydrology of this watery 90 acres actually works?

The wetlands is a manmade feature that was created to serve as a mechanism to control flooding further downstream, namely Harrisburg and environs.

Prior to 1907, the site that is now Wildwood was swampy acreage known as Wetzel's Swamp. The focus on flood control came about as part of the City Beautiful Movement in Harrisburg (and nationally) and resulted in the construction of a dam to impound the water coming into the area from Paxton Creek drainage area. The dam is, in fact, Wildwood Way, the main south entrance road coming to the Nature Center. Along the way, visitors see the round overflow structure in the water near the Delta Boardwalk. This feature is known as the "Morning Glory Spillway" and was built in 1908 as part of the dam project. The original Morning Glory was heightened in 2010.

The Morning Glory is a backup spillway to the larger rectangular "Susquehanna Spillway" visible at the north end of the wetlands. Both spillways serve to control the level of the water impounded by the dam. The significance of the design of these spillways is that the northern one is lower than the Morning Glory and usually has water flowing into it. The northern spillway empties directly into the Susquehanna River whereas the Morning Glory empties into the southern stretches of Paxton Creek. Because the Morning Glory is higher than the Susquehanna Spillway, overflow into Paxton Creek rarely happens, thus reducing the chances for downstream flooding. Interpretive signs located at both the Morning Glory and Susquehanna Spillway explain with graphics and text how they work.

The overall hydrology of the wetlands is more complicated than this simplified explanation and includes sediment, flora, water depth and other issues. But understanding the basics of how water flows into and out of Wildwood helps to understand what's happening to our 'lake'.

We encourage our visitors to learn more about the inner workings of all the Wildwood Park systems and how they all work together.

Enjoy your Park and see you at Wildwood,
Jim

Photo Contest Results

2023 First Place Winners

The 2023 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 14th during which the winners were announced with ribbons and cash prizes awarded.

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

Advanced

- 1st: Bill Neubaum, "Catch of the Day"
- 2nd: Sherri Hendricks, "Belly Full of Berries"
- 3rd: Rich Ramsay, "Red Shoulder Argument"

Intermediate

- 1st: Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah, "It's Playtime"
- 2nd: Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah, "Mama, I Want More!"
- 3rd: Stacie Santillo, "Forlorn"

Beginner

- 1st: Barbara Kirk, "Frozen in Time"
- 2nd: Cassandra Salkin, "Baby Snapping Turtle"
- 3rd: Nancy Laven, "A Bee-autiful Day in the Neighborhood"

Youth

- 1st: Lydia Lubold-Skema, "Fishing Spider Float"
- 2nd: Sebastyan Clyde, "Click Beetle"
- 3rd: Lydia Lubold-Skema, "The Giving Tree"

People's Choice

- Advanced: Sherri Hendricks, "Belly Full of Berries"
- Intermediate: Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah, "It's Playtime"
- Beginner: Kayla Keller, "Peek-a-Boo"
- Youth: Elizabeth Salkin, "The Take Off"



Advanced:
Bill Neubaum
Catch of the Day



Intermediate:
Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah
It's Playtime



Beginner:
Barbara Kirk
Frozen in Time



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!



Youth:
Lydia Lubold-Skema
Fishing Spider Float

Friends of Wildwood Bus Trip, Off the Beaten Path, Part III: Celebrating the Susquehanna River

Saturday, June 22 from 8:00 am–5:00 pm

Cost: \$75 for Members, \$85 for Non-Members

The Friends of Wildwood invite you to join them on their third “Off the Beaten Path” bus trip. Participants will take a comfortable, chartered mini-bus to explore three stops along the Susquehanna in York and Lancaster counties.

Stop 1: The Zimmerman Center for Heritage is the headquarters of Susquehanna National Heritage Area. Depending on weather and availability, activities may include:

- Tour of the historic house that now serves as a museum for Susquehanna River Art and Susquehannock Indian artifacts.
- Boat ride on the Chief Uncas to learn the history of the historic vessel (built in 1912), stories of the special landscape, and lasting legacy of the Susquehanna River! (*The boat ride availability is dependent on both completed maintenance and weather. The Friends of Wildwood will cover the cost of this aspect of the trip.)
- Short, guided hike into Native Lands County Park to learn how the Susquehannock Indians lived along the river. Native Lands Park is the site of the Susquehannock peoples’ last community.

Stop 2: Columbia. This small town has lots to offer. We’ll stop here for lunch on your own and have some time to explore. Columbia has museums, antique shops and lovely river views.

Stop 3: Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education. We’ll enjoy a private 75-90 minute tour of their riparian buffer and agroforestry area to learn about their land restoration efforts.

All participants will receive a specially curated gift bag to provide comfort during the trip. Feel free to bring any other snacks you’d like for the day. Register online by Monday, June 10 at explorewildwoodpark.org/events/.

Winter Lecture Series

The Winter Lecture Series sponsored by the Friends of Wildwood was a success, and isn’t over yet. This year’s theme was Pennsylvania Natural Wonders, focusing on some of the incredible landscapes and geological features of the keystone state. Speakers from the PA Parks and Forests Foundation and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shared their expertise on designated PA Natural Areas, the PA Wilds and Caves. The final lecture will occur on Tuesday, March 5 on Fresh Waterways. We hope that these sparked your curiosity and helped you plan your next adventure. Join us again next year in January and February for this series!

Art In The Wild

Exhibit Opens & Meet the Artists

Sunday, April 7 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 “Nature Heals.” A map-brochure about the exhibit will be available online, at the kiosks or inside the Nature Center.

Species Spotlight: Horned Grebe

A new face has been seen diving and swimming around the southern portion of the Canal along the Towpath this January and February. A new pal for the mallards and coots is the non-breeding adult horned grebe. When swimming next to a mallard pair, he looks like their small, pesky baby duckling, with its small petite 13.5 inch body compared to the mallard’s 23 inch body. But upon closer observation, birders will notice its red eye and white “cheeks” and throat that contrast alongside the darker crown and nape.

This species tends to prefer salt marsh coastlines and ponds, but can be found inland on ice-free lakes. They are diving birds that feed primarily on fish and aquatic insects. Seven species of grebes can be found in North America. It is their lobed toes that make them strong swimmers. The horned grebe is differentiated from other grebes due to its flat-topped head and straight bill. It has been quite some time since we’ve seen a horned grebe at Wildwood. We only hope it stays around long enough to be seen in its adult breeding plumage.



Photo: Glenn Mitzel

Program Ideas

Would you like to see a particular program at Wildwood Park? Do you know of a skilled speaker or presenter? We’re always looking to diversify our program offerings. Please email you ideas or contacts to wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov.

Upcoming Events

Online Registration!

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

Kids Discover: Nocturnal Animals (Ages 5-10)

Saturday, March 23

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Although we go to sleep at night, lots of animals are just waking up! Join a Naturalist to explore the wide variety of nocturnal wildlife through sound and sight at Wildwood Park. Call for owls, discover adaptations that allow these animals to roam at night and look for night-flying insects. Register online.

Cub Scouts: Tigers in the Wild

Sunday, March 24

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

\$12 per scout

Venture out into the wild to discover the plants and animals that inhabit Wildwood. Learn how to prepare for a hike and examine the principles of "Leave No Trace." Tiger Cub Scouts will learn how to search for signs of animals and identify trees and plants. Register online.

Flower Walk

Sunday, March 24

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Free

Meet in front of the Nature Center. Register online.

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

Friday, March 29

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Join a Naturalist for this hands-on program to get a close-up view of the parts of the egg; investigate how eggs form and get their color; and explore why eggs are different shapes and sizes. The program will wrap-up with a fun activity to color hard-boiled eggs a new way! Register online.

Kids Discover: Salamanders (Ages 8-12)

Tuesday, April 2

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Learn all about secretive salamanders and what makes them unique. Go for a short hike to search for them and see if you can catch one—they are slimy and fast. You may get wet and muddy, so dress accordingly. Register online.

Friends of Wildwood Redbud Tree Sale

Sunday, April 7

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Donations

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 and purchase an Eastern Redbud Tree Seedling. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. Sales are cash or check only, so please plan accordingly. Pre-registration not required.

Birds & Coffee with Appalachian Audubon

Saturday, April 13

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Free

Join Appalachian Audubon at the Nature Center Bird Viewing Area for a warm cup of bird-friendly coffee. Pre-registration not required.

Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, April 13

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Free

This month's focus will be on planting new native trees and/or shrubs in various locations throughout the Park. Register online.

Historical Tree Walk at Fort Hunter Park

Monday, April 15

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Free

Meet on the lawn in front of the Mansion. Register online.

Preschool Storytime: Spring at Wildwood!

Wednesday, April 17

10:00 am – 10:45 am

Free

Register online.

Flower Arranging using a Japanese Nageire Container

Thursday, April 18

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

\$50 per participant

Join Dolores McGee, owner of D McGee Design Studio, to learn more about using a Japanese Ikebana Nageire style container. Nageire containers rely on learning how to construct hidden mechanics and understanding the balance that is required to create a design that looks like it floats on the rim of the container. Dolores will provide design instruction and assistance as you gain a level of comfort with this fun and easy style of Japanese design. Register online.



Indigo Vat Dyeing Class

Sunday, April 21

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$25 per participant

Learn about indigo and explore various Shibori resist methods. Participants will use a synthetic indigo vat to dye 1 pair of bamboo socks and a cotton bandana (27" x 27") and can also bring a natural fiber (cotton, linen, wool, silk) textile from home to dye too, either a t-shirt or something of similar size. Please wear old clothes. Register online.

Bird Walk: Peak Migration

Wednesday, May 1

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Free

Meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot. Register online.

Kids Discover: Macroinvertebrates (Ages 8-12)

Sunday, May 5

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

The wetlands of Wildwood are teeming with life below the surface. Discover and learn about these unique aquatic critters as you observe them up close and personal. Participants should meet at the North Parking Lot. Dress for the weather, water shoes recommended but not required. Register online.

Kids Discover: Animals and Their Mothers (Ages 5-10)

Sunday, May 12

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Join a Naturalist to explore the world of wild animal mothers and their young. Participants will discover the answers to these questions and many more through stories, a short hike, hands-on activities and a craft—what better way to celebrate Mother's Day. Register online.

Wild Recipes: Spring Foraging in Your Backyard

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

\$20 per participant

Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to cook a light lunch using a few spring ephemerals. Register online.

Brownies & Daisies: Bugs

Saturday, May 18

10:00 am – 1:30 pm

\$12 per scout

Explore the world of insects and discover their important roles in our environment. Scouts will examine insect habitats while on a hike and take a closer look at these amazing creatures by catching and identifying bugs at Wildwood. Register online.

Intro to Woodburning

Saturday, June 1

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\$35 per participant

Join a Naturalist for a morning or afternoon woodburning workshop. Each participant will receive an 8 inch diameter tree cookie of their choice to woodburn using a wide variety of nature stencils. Woodburning supplies and instruction will be provided. Leave with a one-of-a-kind piece of art for your home. Register online.

Volunteer & Member News

Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Walker

Linda began volunteering at Wildwood after the Pandemic in 2021. Upon moving back to the area, her sister Pat Lavelle, our faithful Friday afternoon volunteer, invited her to join her...and she's been hooked ever since! Linda was a language arts, social studies, math and science teacher to



Middle School students for many years. Her interest in education has also led her to volunteering with the Dauphin County Library System Storytime. Linda is Wildwood Park Staff's go-to person for recommendations on children's nature-themed books. In addition to volunteering at the Front Desk, Linda has helped Staff plan and execute Summer Day Camps; along with Pat she maintains the seasonal educational materials and displays

in the Discovery Room; she is a Wednesday Wellness Walk leader; she's volunteered at the educational stations during Wetlands Festival and Celebrate Wildwood; she participates at Night at the Nature Center dressing up in costume like a fox and spider; she processes the Friends of Wildwood Used Book Sale donations; and most recently she is assisting the Northern Dauphin County Parks Manager, Kayla Harbert, in implementing a Story Walk at Detweiler Park, in conjunction with the Library.

Linda truly enjoys her interactions with children the most. She simply loves coming up with books for them to read and activities they will enjoy in the Discovery Room. She reflected that nature and the trails at Wildwood are such a draw. But more than that, for her, Wildwood has been a place for meeting new friends and fostering a sense of community. The Wednesday Wellness Walkers have become a sort of a family, often meeting up multiple times a week in other various local walking trails like Detweiler Park, Ned Smith and Memorial Lake.

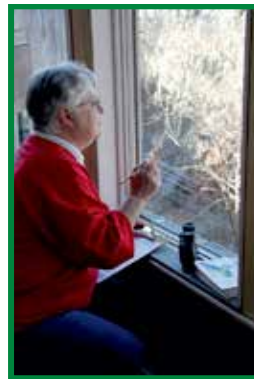
When asked why she keeps coming back she enthusiastically answered, "there's just so many activities going on here." This is Linda's heart, if there is a way for her to help, she'll find it, provide invaluable insight and get involved! Wildwood is so fortunate to have so many willing, able and dedicated volunteers. We truly couldn't do it without all of you. Thank you Linda, for spreading your love and excitement for all things Wildwood with the greater community. You truly are an ambassador for the Park!

Volunteer Appreciation Event

All Friends of Wildwood Volunteers are invited to a special event at Fort Hunter Park on the evening of Tuesday, June 25 with a rain date of Thursday, June 27. More information will be forthcoming!

FeederWatch Update

Since 2002, Wildwood Park has participated in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. This program allows community members to contribute to a North American dataset of bird distribution and abundance each year from November 1–April 30. In 21 seasons of FeederWatch, we have counted birds 400 times and seen 60 different bird species. With the help of volunteers, staff and our monthly Birds & Coffee program facilitated by Appalachian Audubon Society, we are able to contribute to Project FeederWatch. So far in the 2023-2024 season, we have spotted 28 different species from our bird viewing area. From camouflaged brown creepers to huge flocks of red-winged blackbirds, every day at the feeders there is something new to see! A special thank you goes out to Jill Buhrman and Marcia Parker for their help this season!



DEP Environmental Education Grant

In the spring of 2023, Wildwood Park and the Friends of Wildwood were awarded a Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Grant. This grant money was used to purchase microscopes to use for future programming at the Park, especially for guided school field trips. The microscopes will allow students to view microscopic organisms collected in water samples from Paxton Creek. This will help them understand how living organisms can be an indicator of water quality. We are excited to utilize these new tools at the Park. A special thank you to volunteer Dan Farber for assembling them for us!





Outdoor Week (ages 12-14)
Monday, July 22–Friday, July 26
 9:00 am–3:00 pm \$165 per child

Little Sprouts (ages 4-5)
Tuesday, July 30–Thursday, August 1
 1:00 pm–4:00pm \$50 per child

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.

Show your support for Wildwood Park by sporting some Wildwood-themed apparel! Order at your convenience from our online store at <https://bit.ly/3LwL1uk>

Orders will take 2 weeks to process and will be available for pick-up at the Nature Center after email confirmation or 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.



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.

Ways to Give

All are tax deductible



Online

Visit explorewildwoodpark.org/donate-now



Cash or Check



Sponsor a Program



Become a Member

Or give the gift of membership



Make a Bequest



Endowments



Memorial Bricks

Remember a friend, or loved one



Volunteer Your Time

Membership Benefits

Your membership supports the ongoing 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 and recreational opportunities reaching over 100,000 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

Help save paper and money! GO GREEN!



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Mark your calendars for
these upcoming events!

Redbud Tree Sale

Sun. April 7

1:00pm—3:00pm

Wetlands Festival

Sat. April 27

10:00am—4:00pm

Wild About Dogs
Festival

Sat. May 11

10:00am—2:00pm



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