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

Wetlands Festival
Mark your calendars! It’s time to get outside and enjoy a day of free, fun, and educational activities. This year’s festival is Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Try something new! Go on a Pond Tour and discover wildlife inhabiting the Meadow’s small ponds; see first hand how we’ve improved the habitat. ZooAmerica will present Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales at 12:30 p.m. and Wetland Animals at 2:30 p.m. Don’t miss local talented musician Mark DeRose starting at 1 p.m.

Throughout the day enjoy wildlife exhibits, displays, as well as a great representation of local and regional environmental organizations. There is something for everyone.

You are invited to park off Crooked Hill Road then onto Apollo Road. Walk the easy quarter mile Capital Area Greenbelt trail to festival.

A flyer and schedule is enclosed. Enjoy!

Art In The Wild
Art In The Wild 2018 is on display now through October 31. Take a stroll around the park and see the creations. Regional artists, schools and two college classes constructed creative trailside installations from mostly natural materials.

A detailed brochure is available at the nature center. Check out the video made by Capital Area School for the Arts students at www.wildwoodlake.org

First Place: Harmonic Convergence
by Eve Gurbacki and Adrienne Zimmerman

Continued on Page 6
A Word from the President

Friends,

Although the groundhog gave us a little more winter than we may have wanted, spring is now close at hand and what better place to enjoy the change of seasons than Wildwood? There are so many activities to take advantage of, indoors and out, for all age levels. Be sure to keep checking the Wildwood web site for a complete listing of all the workshops, walks, lectures and special event days being planned and sponsored by the Friends.

In January, the annual photo contest was another tremendous success and I hope you were able to visit the Nature Center and see the amazing artwork submitted this year. The photos seem to get better every year. And the April opening of Art In The Wild 2018 brings another round of exciting environmental art installations throughout the Park. This year’s theme is “Natural Abstraction”.

And as always, a big thanks to you for your membership support. Please continue to help us find new members in addition to considering upping your membership level. All the great events and programming sponsored by the Friends simply can’t happen without this generous backing.

See you at Wildwood,

JC

This White-throated Sparrow was photographed at the Nature Center bird feeders and was recently published in Pennsylvania magazine. Way to go Mike Morris!
Photo Contest Winners

Winners of the 2017 Photography Contest were announced at the Contest Awards Ceremony and Reception in January. Thank you to all of the entrants and congratulations to the winners! The judges had quite a challenging task of selecting winners within the four categories of advanced, intermediate, beginners, and youth. New this year was the People’s Choice Award.

Winning entries will be on display in the nature center, the Dauphin County Commissioner’s Office, and other venues throughout the year.

And the winners are…

**Advanced:**
First Place: Wes Peterson “Chickadee and the Tramp”
Second Place: Wes Peterson “Blueberry”
Third Place: Sherri Hendricks “Blue and Green”
People’s Choice: Wes Peterson “Blueberry”

**Intermediate:**
First Place: Nell Luttrell “In the Spotlight”
Second Place: Shannon O’Shea “Taking My Bird for a Walk”
Third Place: Larry Usselman “Carolina Wren”
People’s Choice: Shannon O’Shea “Dirty Faced Child”

**Beginner:**
First Place: Becki Kraft “I’m Branching Out”
Second Place: Jo Ellen Wright “Frog Eyes”
Third Place: Lalitha Hegde “Wild Love”
People’s Choice: Jo Ellen Wright “Frog Eyes”

**Youth:**
First Place: Lauren Sim “Green”
Second Place: Olivia Schneider “I Spy With My Frog Eye”
Third Place: Lucero Figueroa-Perez “Spiderweb Tree”
People’s Choice: Matthew Tokarz “White Barn Owl”

Thank you to judges Denny Bingaman, Raymond Gehman, and Ellen Siddons for their time and expert efforts. Thank you to the committee, staff, and volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Thank you to Richard Messner for his generous donation of the heron photograph used in the brochure.
Congratulations!

Friends of Wildwood held a raffle for a Canon Rebel Digital SL1 Camera with 2 lens and extra memory card. Tickets were available at the nature center front desk and the drawing was held at the Photo Contest Reception on January 7th.

Thank you to Charlie Smith and Canon Professional Services for the camera donation.

Maintenance Crew, You’re the Best!

The Friends held a small ceremony at the Nature Center late in February to formally recognize and thank the Wildwood maintenance crew, Russ Corkle, Greg Motter and Shawn Legge and their support team Scott Rothermel, Gary Frampton and Randy Wise for the outstanding work they perform at Wildwood keeping the Park clean, tidy and in great working order.

A Resolution of Appreciation and Thanks was read and a variety of new tools was presented to the crew to help with their never-ending list of Park-upkeep tasks. We all owe these folks huge thanks and a big pat on the back for the terrific work they do. Let’s keep this up by extending personal thanks every time you see them doing their amazing work at the Park. It’s important that their efforts do not go unrecognized.

How We Are Improving Paxton Creek and Wildwood Lake

The March 6 informative program about how we are working to improve Paxton Creek and Wildwood Lake attracted 65 interested attendees. Matt Bonanno, HRG engineer, discussed the proposed Joint Pollutant Reduction Plan. Throughout the evening, Matt discussed how residents can be proactive in reducing pollution into local waterways. He also highlighted water pollution reduction projects throughout the watershed and gave away two nice rain barrels!

The proposed Pollution Reduction Plan is a joint municipal plan to address water pollution, mainly sediment, in Paxton Creek. The Plan’s stakeholder partners include Capital Region Water, Susquehanna Township, Lower Paxton Township and Dauphin County.

A Feasibility Study on dredging sections of Wildwood Lake is available on the website; this project is not funded at this time.
Online Registration!
Program registration is now online at www.wildwoodlake.org. It’s easy!
Click on the “Events” page, scroll through the list of programs, click on the link to register.

Twilight Frog Walk
Saturday, May 5
7:00 – 8:30 pm $5 per person
It’s a magical time in the marsh. Begin in the Olewine Pavilion where we will learn a little background about frogs of Wildwood. Then we’ll take a walk in the twilight on Wildwood’s boardwalks! All ages are welcome to attend. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather.

Bird Walk: Peak Migration
Wednesday, May 9
7:30 - 9:30 am Free
Search for warblers, phoebes, wrens, orioles, and other songbirds on the North Boardwalk with volunteers Rick and Peg Price. May is a great time to see migrating warblers. Meet at the nature center parking lot.

Stress Relief Walk
Saturday, May 12
10:00 - 11:30 am Free
Walk off the stress of the work week with a self-guided hike at Wildwood Park. The 3-mile walk on easy trails with short climbs will be at your own pace. Meet at the Olewine Nature Center. Check www.wildwoodlake.org for cancellation information in case of rain.

Volunteer Work Day
Saturday, May 12
10:00 am – 1:00 pm Free
Take this opportunity to work outside and help Wildwood’s continued park and habitat enhancement projects. Tools and work gloves provided. Registration is required for groups of six or more. Go to www.wildwoodlake.org. Assume the work day is cancelled if it is raining.

Flower Walk: Jack in the Pulpits and Other Spring Flowers
Sunday, May 13
1:00 – 3:00 pm Free
Join volunteer Cara Martinez-Williams to search for Jack in the Pulpits. Learn the interesting facts about the Jack in the Pulpit. Meet at the Olewine Nature Center.

Educator Workshop: Advanced PA Songbirds
Friday, May 18
8:30 am – 3:00 pm $25 per person
Discover the many ways birds can be used to engage students in learning about environmental concepts. The workshop begins with a special presentation by Bob Mulvihill of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. Licensed bird bander Sandy Lockerman will demonstrate bird banding and discuss the importance of banding as a research tool. Activities will address topics such as bird identification, adaptations, the importance of habitat, and migration. Act 48 hours available.

Painting @ the Park
Sunday, May 20 Youth: $20; Adult: $25
Youth: Ages 7-12, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Ages 12-Adult, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Bring your will to paint and your friends and join the Friends of Wildwood for our 2nd Annual Painting at the Park. All experience levels are welcome as Jenn Brown guides the group in creating a scene you might find at Wildwood Park. This year we are expanding to include a Youth event. Weather permitting, we will be outside enjoying the fresh spring air! All materials as well as refreshments and drinks will be provided. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. Register by May 15th by visiting www.wildwoodlake.org

Tree Identification Walk
Sunday, May 27
10:30 am – 11:30 am Free
Identifying trees by the bark is a possibility but sometimes difficult. On this walk we will also be aided in the identification by flowers and leaves. Meet at the Olewine Nature Center.

DAY CAMPS
Wildwood Way Day Camp (ages 6-8)
Junior Naturalist Day Camp (ages 9-11)
Outdoor Week (ages 12-14)
JumpStart Photography for Younger Kids (ages 7-12)
Photo Boot Camp: Nature and Wildlife (ages 13-17)
Register at www.wildwoodlake.org
Thank you artists for your hard work in making outdoor art at Wildwood! Judge Roy Staab, artist and sculptor, selected the following installations.

First Place:  *Harmonic Convergence*
by Eve Gurbacki and Adrienne Zimmerman
(covers photo)

Second Place:  *Boundless Tabernacle*
by Raymond Crum

Third Place:  *Natural Connections to Heart and Brain*
by Brook Lauer

Vote for your favorite installation at the Nature Center or wildwoodlake.org

The top three People’s Choice winners will be announced at Celebrate Wildwood on September 23.
Seeking Volunteers

Wildwood Park is currently seeking volunteers to help at the front desk in the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center on weekends. Our front desk volunteers are an essential part of the Nature Center. They meet and greet visitors as they enter the building, answer phone calls, and process gift shop sales along with various other jobs. Contact Kayla at kwarshefski@dauphinc.org or call (717) 221-0292, ext.4.

Have you considered Wildwood Park in your estate planning?

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 includes 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

The Friends of Wildwood Lake Nature Center, Inc. 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 Membership Application

[ ] New Membership   [ ] Renewal Membership

Name _______________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State and Zip Code __________________________
Telephone __________________________ Email Address _____________________________________________

Make checks payable to: Friends of Wildwood
100 Wildwood Way
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Or

Sign up to use PayPal at www.wildwoodlake.org

Questions about the Friends of Wildwood or Wildwood Park can be directed to wwstaff@dauphinc.org

Membership Category

(please check one)

[ ] Student Membership $15.00
[ ] Individual Membership $35.00
[ ] Family Membership $50.00
[ ] Supporting Membership $100.00
[ ] Business Membership $500.00
[ ] Dog Membership $10.00

Dog’s name ____________________

This special category is available with any membership and provides your dog with his/her own membership including hours of fresh air and smells. Remember, if they could join, they would!

[ ] Additional Donation: I would like to contribute additional funding in the amount of
$ ______________ to help support Wildwood Park.

TOTAL $ ______________
Mark your calendars for these Spring programs!

Art In The Wild           Wetlands               Detweiler Park
Now Open                  Festival               Bioblitz
Saturday, April 28        Saturday, May 12  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.     8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.