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

Membership Drive
Can you help us reach our goal of 300 Friends of Wildwood members by December 31, 2018? We are working hard to reach our goal but need your help! We are asking each current member to ask a family member or friend to join. Please find an enclosed redesigned membership brochure.

In the re-tooled brochure, you will notice we’ve changed a few things - most notable is the overall look, and the names of the membership categories. We applied Wildwood Park animal names to membership categories and created a new membership level called the ‘Peregrine Falcon’.

Friends have accomplished so much for Wildwood and we want to build on our momentum and continue to bolster our mission of preserving and supporting Wildwood Park.

Thank You!

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held June 12 in the Olewine Pavilion. Perfect weather, delectable foods, and a great turnout provided an excellent opportunity to say thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work and support.

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Director Carl Dickson thanked volunteers on behalf of the Dauphin County Commissioners. Friends of Wildwood Vice President Bob Orris provided an overview of Friends of Wildwood recent accomplishments.

The following volunteers were honored with service pins:

20-Year Pin
Pam Parson
Keith Bentz
Gene Wingert
Dick Kohr

5-Year Pin
Carol Lopus
John Guilaume
Teresa Harrold
Ray Osif
Bill Hickey
Deniz Martinez
Omar Martinez
Leyla Martinez
Collette Matthews
Jason Rubinic
Tracy Shambach
Joslyn Shambach
Valerie Motter
Toni Semanko
Stephen Bruder
Elaine Duncan

Weather Station
Thanks to Friends, Wildwood has a new weather station and HD camera that showcases live images of the park. You can check Wildwood’s weather by going to weatherbug.com, or click on the link from wildwoodlake.org. Check the weather in person by stopping in the nature center and view it on the newly installed monitor. You can easily determine current weather data, forecasts, radar and camera images.
Friends,

After a winter that everyone thought would never end (personally, I like winter) and a rainy, rainy spring, summer is upon us. This means all the warm weather Wildwood activities are in full swing – camps, hikers, bikers, environmental art lovers, animal spotters and dog walkers.

It was with great pleasure that the Friends Board welcomed two new members at their June meeting, Ginny DeChristopher and Kelly Donaldson. Please join me in welcoming them when you see them next at Wildwood.

A few more updates of note: The year’s Wetlands Festival was another huge success with more record breaking crowds even though it was cut a little short due to a fast-moving storm blowing through. Maybe you had to rush for cover.

You have probably noticed the landscaping improvements happening at the south (main) entrance to the Park. A big thanks to Mary Lundeen and the volunteers who have been working hard on this project which provides a fresh and welcoming new ‘front door’ to Wildwood. Hopefully the new deer resistant plantings will ward off our ‘deer’ friends.

As always, we are grateful for your being a Friend of Wildwood. We have established a goal of 300 members by the end of 2018 and we need your help to spread the word and find new members. Everyone wins!

See you at Wildwood.

JC
Giants Arrive at Wildwood Lake

On May 12, 2018, a very willing group of Boy Scouts, their parents and volunteers planted 15 bald cypress trees (Taxodium distichum) at Wildwood Lake. Bald Cypress are the giant trees of lowlands and swamps associated with the southeastern United States. These trees are naturally found from the lower Mississippi River valley throughout the gulf states and north through the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey. They just reach Pennsylvania along the Delaware River in extreme southeastern Pennsylvania.

They are called bald because they lose their needles in winter and are thus “Bald”. These trees prefer level alluvial soils that are generally saturated with water. The delta of Wildwood Lake fills this bill very nicely.

The cypress trees were planted in a group with the hope that the trees will eventually form a cypress grove to enhance the boardwalk experience at Wildwood Lake. Cypress trees grow to over 100 feet in height and are one of the largest trees in eastern North America. Their wood is very rot resistant and is used in construction of mushroom houses for this reason. One may view the saplings along the Delta Boardwalk just to the south of the extension to the bird viewing binoculars.

Many thanks to the following “tree planters”: Kris, Zack & Mason Boob, Wayne & Bradley Davis, Margaret Doucette, Rich Hylan, Jeff, Deb, Caleb & Chelsey Mendolia, and Harold Pacey. Also, a thank you to Octoraro Native Plant Nursery in Kirkwood, PA for supplying the Bald Cypress Trees.

Gene Wingert, Friends of Wildwood Board of Directors

DEP Grant

Wildwood Park received a $35,000 DEP grant to repair a 200’ section of Paxton Creek. It will be modified wood cribbing, and provide bank protection and long-term stabilization for the nature center foundation. This project will help reduce erosion and lessen the amount of sediment that washes into Wildwood Lake. Work to begin as early as Fall 2018.
South Lot Plantings

Many hands were involved in the recent South Lot Planting. Before any work could be done, Mary Lundeen, Wildwood volunteer, graciously dedicated her time to map a plan for its revitalization.

Mary is a PA Master Gardener and holds a Level One Landscaper Professional Certification from the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals.

With her expertise, the monetary support of the Friends of Wildwood, and a donation from KPMG, a variety of native trees, shrubs, and perennials mostly indigenous to Wildwood were purchased. The plants will help to reduce highway noise, absorb air pollution, filter runoff, and curb erosion.

The installation took place during mid-April with the help of Dauphin County Technical School Horticulture students under the instruction of teacher Matt Arnold. The students worked through the cold and even a fleeting snow flurry to carefully space each plant according to the plot’s design. Over the course of two days they were able to gain practical hands-on landscaping techniques applicable to their shop.

The finishing touches were added by a service team from Highmark and United Concordia on April 20. The team of fifteen were able to finish the planting, fertilize, mulch and water the beds. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Painting at the Park

Painting at the Park was a success! Participants enjoyed Jennifer Brown’s learn how to paint class. Membership Chair Heather Dock spearheaded the event and raised over $400 for Friends of Wildwood. Everyone seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the yummy snacks provided by a Thrivent grant.

Special thanks goes to board members Bob Orris, Teresa Harrold, Traci Wolfe, Moe Hickey, Jim Caufield and especially Emily Hand in making the event a success.

Camera Raffle

Win A Canon Rebel Digital Camera

$5.00 per ticket or 3 for $10.00
Prize outfit includes: Canon Rebel T6 18 MP DSLR with 18-55 Standard Zoom Lens, 55-250 mm Telephoto Zoom Lens, 16 GB Memory Card, and Canon Shoulder Bag
Tickets available at the Nature Center front desk. Proceeds support Friends of Wildwood!
Online Registration!
Program registration is 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.

Volunteer Work Day
Saturday, July 14 & Aug 11
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.

Flower Walk
Sunday, July 8 Still More Blooms
Sunday, Aug 12 Heat Tolerant Plants
10:30 am – 12:00 pm Free
Join volunteer Cara Martinez-Williams to view many varieties in bloom. Learn how these and other flowers were named and some of their uses by early settlers and Native Americans. Meet at the North Lot. Registration not required.

Get in Shape Walk
Thursday, June 21, July 19 & Aug 16
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Free
Walking is a great way to get in shape. Enjoy a self-guided 3-mile walk at Wildwood Park on level trails. Meet at the Olewine Nature Center. Registration not required.

Detweiler Park Hike
Saturday, June 23 & July 21
10:00 am – 11:00 am Free
Check out Dauphin County’s newest and largest Nature Park! Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Director will lead the hike on the woodsy dirt trails. Meet at the park trailhead located at the Dauphin County Conservation District parking lot at 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin, PA 17018. Registration not required.

Stress Relief Walk
Saturday, July 14
10:00 am –11:30 am
Wednesday, Aug 8
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
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. Registration not required.

Educator Workshop: WET on the River
Thursday, July 26
8:30 am – 3:30 pm $25.00 per person
Join facilitators from DCNR and Wildwood Park for an educator workshop on the Susquehanna River. This workshop will focus on river and watershed activities from Project WET. Canoes, paddles, PFD’s, paddle instruction, and shuttle are included. All participants will receive the Project WET 2.0 guide that contains over 60 hands-on activities to use with students K-12. Act 48 credit available (6.5 hours). Registration required.
Volunteer & Member News

Thank You for Your Support!
Thank you Enola Sportmen’s Association for a generous donation to Friends of Wildwood! This private club promotes the conservation of forests and waters, and has consistently supported the educational mission of Wildwood. Thank you Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association for providing an education grant to Wildwood to support summer nature day camps!

Used Nature Books Wanted
Friends are collecting used nature books for an upcoming book sale to benefit the park. Field guides, children’s books and anything nature related is appropriate. Please just books, no periodicals, magazines or videos.

Summer Staff
Campers are fortunate to have two talented interns this summer. Jessica Picone is pursuing a B.S. in Secondary Education at Shippensburg University while Savanna Lenker is Pursuing a B.A. in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College.

Jessica is currently working on her Environmental Education certification and brings teaching experience working within the State Park system. Savanna attended Wildwood’s day camps and brings thorough knowledge of the park’s diverse ecosystems back to the program. Welcome Jessica and Savanna!

Wildwood Gets New Bird Boxes
Nolan Marolf, Boy Scout Troop 368, completed a prospective eagle scout project at Wildwood Park this spring. He spearheaded the fundraising, construction, and installation of 10 wood duck nest boxes and 15 eastern bluebird/tree swallow nest boxes. Thank you Nolan and Troop 368!

Hatching Monarch Butterfly Video
Adidi Sandhvi attended Photo Day Camp at Wildwood and afterwards creatively applied her nature camera/video skills to a school project. She made a time-lapse video of monarch pupation that won second place in the Pennsylvania State Computer Fair. Way to go Adidi! Check out the video on YouTube at https://tinyurl.com/ya7szvpc

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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.

Membership Benefits
Your membership supports the ongoing environmental education programs and conservation efforts of Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

- 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
- Support Environmental Education programs reaching 10,000 people annually
- Have a direct impact on local and migratory wildlife, wild plants, and the diverse people living in our community
- Preserve Wildwood Park, now and for future generations

Have you considered Wildwood Park in your estate planning?

Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?
Here are 7 easy ways to give to Wildwood. All are tax deductible.
Details at www.wildwoodlake.org/support

Become a Member or give the gift of membership
Make a Donation
Make a Bequest
Purchase a Memorial Brick
Contribute to Wildwood’s Endowment
Sponsor a Program
Volunteer your time

Penn Cumberland Garden Club Recognizes Wildwood
At a recent Penn Cumberland Garden Club meeting, numerous donations were made to a variety of organizations. Wildwood Park was one of the lucky recipients, accepting a donation of $200 from the Club. Carol Lopus, a member of the Friends of Wildwood Board, was on hand to receive the donation.

Left to right: Karen Schwarzbauer, Publicity Chair, PCGC; Carol Lopus, Friends of Wildwood Membership Chair

Best & Brightest Class of 2018
Volunteer and past intern, Eli DePaulis, was selected Best and Brightest by PennLive/Patriot News. This program honors high school seniors in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties. There were 189 applications. Two panels of judges then selected the 20 winners, 10 boys and 10 girls. Congratulations Eli!!

Eli DePaulis

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Mark your calendars for these upcoming Summer programs!

**Summer Day Camps at Wildwood Park**

**Reptiles! with ZooAmerica**
Saturday, August 18
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Detweiler Park Hikes**
Saturday, June 23
Saturday, July 21
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.