Winter Lecture Series to Focus on Status of Pennsylvania Wildlife

Friends of Wildwood will sponsor the popular Winter Lecture Series again this year. Back from the Brink will be the theme, with speakers sharing their expertise on species that are in peril, studies that document their habitat needs, changes in their numbers, and efforts that may lead to stabilization or restoration of their populations in Pennsylvania.

Join PA Game Commission Biologist Tom Keller on January 15 to learn about a restoration program aimed at returning northern bobwhite quail to Pennsylvania. Within the last quarter century, this native bird species has become extirpated from the keystone state. The PA Game Commission in partnership with Letterkenny Army Depot, Quail Forever, and multiple others, are leading a cutting-edge effort to reintroduce bobwhites back into Pennsylvania.

On January 30, David McNaughton, the Assistant Wildlife Program Manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap, will discuss what has happened to Dauphin County’s amphibian and reptile species. The statewide atlas project PARS (Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey) has documented 42 species, but they are not the same 42 species that had been recorded in the past. Learn what has happened to our herps over the last 30 to 60 years.

Lectures are Tuesday evenings at 7pm

- January 16  Northern Bobwhite Quail Reintroduction by Tom Keller
- January 30  Amphibians and Reptiles of Dauphin County: Some Lost, Some Found by Dave McNaughton
- February 13 Pollination: Plants vs. Animals by Mike Slater
- February 27  Rearing and Reintroduction of Regal Fritillary Butterflies by Erika McKinney and Tim Becker

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A Word from the President

Friends,

It always seems like winter with the arrival of daylight savings time. The colder, shorter days are perfect for the hardy amongst us. The brisk weather will provide for invigorating outings for hikers, runners and bikers who not only love this time of year, but also everything else Wildwood offers.

Snowfalls will further provide seasonal opportunities like following and studying the tracks of our wildlife. The colder weather will also enable participants to partake in one of Wildwood’s newest activities, mindfulness hikes, conducted by one of the Friends newest Board members, Traci Wolfe.

These walks are designed for the quiet enjoyment of winter in the Wildwood outdoors. Wear your woolies! And don’t forget about all the activities and programs designed and offered for those seeking warmth between now and spring. These indoor programs include the annual photo contest, awards and reception; the winter lecture series; and fly tying classes. All of these activities, and many more, can be found at www.wildwoodlake.org with details, registration information and dates.

And starting with the new year, the Friends Board will sadly see the departure of Board member Carolyn Blatchley. Thanks, Carolyn, for your six years of dedication and input to the Board. We’ll miss you. With Carolyn’s departure, we welcome two new Board members. Traci Wolfe who has been conducting Wildwood’s yoga walks as well as orchestrating the new mindfulness walks, and Shawn Scott who is returning to the Board having previously served as Friends President. A big welcome to Traci and Shawn.

And finally, in keeping with this season of thanks, a warm thank you is extended to all the Friends of Wildwood for their past membership and support. We look forward to your continued involvement and, as always, your renewed memberships.

When renewing for another year, please consider increasing your membership category and helping us to find new Friends. The cause is a great one – Wildwood!

See you there,

JC
Lecture Series

Continued from Page 1

On February 13, Mike Slater, President of the Entomological Society of Pennsylvania, will present a photographic exploration of the diversity of relationships between pollinating animals, especially insects, and the plants they rely on.

Most people think of pollination as an example of cooperation between plants and animals, but although they may be completely dependent on each other, plants and pollinators have different goals. There are many strategies employed by both sides in the eons-old relationship between flowers and the animals that visit them for sustenance.

Regal fritillary butterflies, once common throughout the eastern United States will be the focus of the program on February 27. The only remaining population of this beautiful species, east of Indiana, can be found at Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FIGMR).

Butterfly Biologist Erika McKinney will explain the current work at FIGMR to study and protect this vulnerable population. ZooAmerica Naturalist Tim Becker will describe their cooperative project to propagate regal fritillaries for reintroduction into new areas of Pennsylvania.

New!!! Vote for Your Favorite Photo

Visit the Olewine Nature Center to view the 100 plus beautiful photo entries and, new this year, participate in the People’s Choice by voting for your favorite photos!

The judged top selections will be announced Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 1pm. Prizes will be awarded for winning entries.

The People’s Choice awards will be announced at www.wildwoodlake.org on February 1, 2018. Prizes go to top votes in each category. The display runs through January 27, 2018.

Call to Artists: Art In The Wild 2018

The Art In The Wild 2018 Committee is accepting applications until January 16, 2018 from anyone wishing to make a proposal. This year’s theme is Natural Abstractions.

Go to wildwoodlake.org to get an application. We are looking for a wide range of artists, non-artists, creators and anyone interested in developing outdoor art using natural materials. Anyone may apply.

Uncommon Bird Sighting!

Several photographers captured sharp images of a Brant resting on Wildwood Lake on October 18, 2017. A Brant is a small goose with a black head, neck and chest. It nests in the Arctic tundra. What a great example of how Wildwood Lake is an important stopover and resting area for migratory waterfowl and other birds!
Theresa Alberici Reflects on Leading Wildwood’s Scout Programs

Working with the Girl and Boy scouts at Wildwood is like coming home again. I have wonderful memories of my time as a scout, a camp counselor, a cookie Mom and a leader. Now, I am fortunate to share adventures with both Boy and Girl Scouts, searching for aquatic organisms with Brownies, and watching a chipmunk swim across Paxton Creek with Bears.

This past year Juniors created habitats and tested to see if their creations were able to keep animals warm. Cadettes searched the night sky for constellations while hiking to the songs of katydids. I was thrilled to witness the surprised gasps as Webeloes and Wolves hiked to the giant sycamore tree at Wildwood for the very first time. All scouts, no matter the age or the weather, were excited to go out into the park and explore – no technology or gimmicks needed, just some binoculars or bug boxes and a willingness to be open to new experiences.

Nature is all around us yet there is always something more to discover. We do not have to travel far. Scouts encourage youth of all ages to be explorers and I am lucky enough to be one their guides.

Thank You

“Night at the Nature Center” Actors!

Kids enjoyed the friendly Halloween program called “Night at the Nature Center” featuring Wildwood’s talking animals. Lots of thanks to the talented actors!

Left to Right (back row)
Owl – Pat George
Skunk – John Maxwell
Deer – Kathie Bard
Bat – Bob Hinkelman
Muskrat – Derek Cincotta
Painted Turtle – Dakota Cincotta
Raccoon – Christian Cincotta
Opossum – Destiny Rineer
Bear – Carol Lopus

Left to Right (front row)
Rabbit – Amy Hoolihan
Great Egret – Rachel Wolfe
Green Frog – Paul Engleman

Tree Planting

Friends of Wildwood purchased 10 new trees that were planted this fall. Flowering dogwoods replaced non-native species around the nature center gardens and redbud trees were planted in the South Lot garden. Plans are in the works to bolster gardens with new plantings in spring 2018.

Thank you Friends!!!
Upcoming Events

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.

Mindfulness Hike
Sunday, January 7 & February 4
10:00 am – 11:30 am Free
Join yoga instructor Traci Wolfe for a guided 3.1-mile walk around Wildwood. On this hike, the pace will be brisk enough to keep the body warm.

Cadette Girl Scout Workshop: Night Owl
Saturday, January 27 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm $10 per scout
As day turns to night, scouts will explore Wildwood, discover the myths surrounding stars, and learn about nocturnal animals. Turn out the lights, tune in your senses, and step out into the night!

Preschool Storytime: Winter at Wildwood!
Wednesday, January 31 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.

Fly-tying Classes
Thursdays, February 1 – March 22
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Free
The Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold an 8-week evening course on introductory fly-tying. All materials generously provided.

Photography Workshops:
Getting the Most from Your Digital Camera - Primer
Saturday, February 10 9:00 am – 2:00 pm $125 per person

Taking Your Photography to the Next Level
Saturday, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9
9 am – 12 pm
$250 for the series of 4 classes

Kids Discover: Animals and Their Tracks
Sunday, February 11 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm $5 per child
Join a naturalist to learn the art of tracking. Snow on the ground is helpful but not necessary.

The Great Backyard Bird Count
Saturday, February 17
Anytime from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Free
Drop by and participate in this citizen science project. Bird experts will be on site to share how to identify local birds. Enjoy winter birds from the indoors.

Lecture: How We Are Improving Paxton Creek and Wildwood Lake
Tuesday, March 6 7:00 pm Free
Why is the lake so shallow? Matt Bonanno will lead us through the possibilities for the future of Wildwood Lake in terms of dredging and learn about improvements upstream with the Paxton Creek Joint Pollutant Reduction Plan.

Volunteer Work Day
Saturday, March 10 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Boy and Girl Scout Workshop for Webelos, Juniors, and Higher: Leave No Trace
Saturday, March 10 10:30 am – 2:00 pm $10 per scout
Leave No Trace is a program designed for students to learn important outdoor skills and wilderness etiquette. Scouts will be able to properly identify trail markers, minimize impact on the environment, and learn what kind of gear to bring with them on a trip.

Webelo Boy Scout Workshop: Into the Wild
Saturday, March 17 10:00 pm – 1:00 pm $10 per scout
Explore the wild and discover the importance of wetland ecosystems. Scouts will improve their wildlife watching, classification, and identification skills, then use these skills on a hike to observe the diverse wildlife of Wildwood.

Junior Girl Scout Workshop: Geocache
Saturday, March 24 10:00 pm – 1:30 pm $10 per scout
During this program, scouts will learn how to use a GPS and explore the basics and etiquette of geocaching. Scouts will then take a geocache adventure through Wildwood.
Joining Together to Clean-up Paxton Creek

It has long been known that the number one issue with Wildwood Lake and Paxton Creek is sediment. Now what do we do about it? At the recent Annual Meeting of the Friends of Wildwood, engineer Matt Bonanno provided an interesting overview of the status of Wildwood Lake and Paxton Creek.

In 2015, Friends of Wildwood funded a Feasibility Study to restore Wildwood Lake. Shortly afterwards, a Wildwood Restoration Partnership was formed; this was a group of 15 supporting state and local organizations.

It was determined the best place to start to restore Wildwood Lake was to address pollution coming from upstream. In 2017, municipalities upstream from Wildwood Lake formed a Joint Pollutant Reduction Plan. This is a joint plan to address pollution, mainly sediment, in Paxton Creek.

The City of Harrisburg, Lower Paxton Township, Susquehanna Township, and Dauphin County, prepared the plan with short and long term goals of reducing sediment by 10% and 35% respectively.

Learn more about it on Tuesday, March 6 at 7 pm with the free lecture “How We Are Improving Paxton Creek and Wildwood Lake” with Matt Bonanno. Matt will lead us through the possibilities for the future of Wildwood Lake in terms of dredging and highlight improvements upstream.

Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 easy ways to give to Wildwood. All are tax deductible.
Details at www.wildwoodlake.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

Welcome New Board Members

Welcome new board members Traci Wolfe (left) and Shawn Scott (right) to the Friends of Wildwood Board!
Benjamin Olewine III Recognized as Legacy Donor

We were deeply moved by the passing of Mr. Benjamin Olewine III this past spring. He held Wildwood near and dear to his heart and vision, and the nature center was his first major gift in a lifetime of giving. Friends of Wildwood are happy to announce Mr. Olewine included Wildwood Park and the Olewine Nature Center in his estate planning by making a significant bequest to the Park.

Mr. Olewine’s donation was a huge help in reaching our goal of increasing Wildwood’s endowment through bequests and other donations. A “Legacy Donors” plaque was created to recognize his gift and to provide a way to recognize others who include Wildwood in their long term estate planning. Staff and Friends of Wildwood Board were honored that Mr. Olewine thought of the park in his estate planning.

Recently, his son Benjamin Olewine IV (Ben) and daughter Kristen Olewine Milke (Kris) stopped in the nature center to see the plaque. Ben and Kris were happy to reflect and share memories of growing up next door to Wildwood and also their Dad’s involvement with the Park. Enjoy the Q&A below:

Having grown up in the neighborhood next door to Wildwood, what memories do you have of the Park?

(Ben) In addition to ice skating, I would go fishing there from the banks as a kid. I also would go exploring along a swampy/wetland area that extended north of the lake and north of Linglestown Road on the east side of the railroad tracks. It was somewhat of an adventure to go back into that area along a dirt road since sometimes gypsies would be staying back there.

(Kris) The bonfires on the frozen lake when we were ice skating. There were also hobos riding the trains and you would sometimes see them in the area of the railroad tracks along the lake.
Legacy Donor (continued)

How rural was the area?
(Ben) It was very rural!!!! Once you left the Linglestown Road & Sixth Street intersection and went through the subway/underpass underneath the railroad tracks (about 150 yards east of that intersection), it was totally rural the whole way to Linglestown. There was the lake on the right after the underpass, a few houses on the very steep, windy road going up the hill after the underpass, and then the Herbert Hoover elementary school and a few farms and houses before you came to Linglestown.

What kind of neighborhood was it compared to today? What has changed the most? What hasn’t changed?
(Kris) There weren’t any roads at all around the lake except for Linglestown Road that went up the hill at the north end of the lake. The total “sense of place” was completely different.

(Ben) It’s totally different today than it was back in the 1950s when we were growing up at the corner of Third Street & Linglestown Road! Nothing is the same on the west side of the lake except there were railroad tracks, there was the same church at the corner of Sixth Street & Linglestown Road, and the same houses existed on Linglestown Road and Sixth Street before you got to the subway/underpass going under the railroad tracks.

The Wildwood Lake area on the east side of the railroad tracks also was totally different! The lake was a regular big open lake without all of the current American Lotus, marsh vegetation, and islands with some trees. The only entrance to the lake that we knew of was right after the subway/underpass on Linglestown Road. You could see the lake once you went through the subway/underpass under the railroad tracks and the overflow/outlet was right there at the north end of the lake. The lake’s boundaries must have been greater than they are today.

What is one of your memories of your father’s involvement with the nature center?
(Kris) One of my memories was being on the board of Friends of Wildwood after my father made his lead gift to start the nature center.

(Ben) My first vivid memory is the total surprise I had when he told me that he had made the lead gift to start the nature center. It felt so good to hear this given my great interest in nature and conservation. I had hoped he would start making significant financial contributions to the community at some point and he would eventually include nature conservation as part of this. I was so pleased that his first major gift was to start a nature center at Wildwood Lake! I also remember him telling me about his involvement with presentations to potential donors about providing additional funding to build the nature center. This was the only time he had ever done this and he did it because the nature center was so important to him.

Another vivid memory is my attending the various fundraising events for the nature center in the early 1990s. At these events, I met and became friends with Cindy Dunn, who was on the Friends of Wildwood board and also was on the National Audubon Society board. This eventually resulted in Cindy nominating me for the National Audubon board in 1994.....starting my whole “second career” in bird and nature conservation, both nationally and internationally. This never may have happened without my father’s lead gift to start the nature center.
Thank you Lou Hepschmidt
Friends of Wildwood recognize long-time friend to Wildwood Lou Hepschmidt who recently passed away. Lou was a wonderful supporter of Wildwood Park during the construction of the nature center. She also generously supported programs each year. Thank you Lou!

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

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:

Photo Contest Reception
Sunday, January 7
1:00 pm

Photo Contest Display
vote for your favorite
Ends Jan. 27

How We Are Improving Paxton Creek and Wildwood Lake
Tuesday, March 6
7:00 pm