Photos like this one by Steve Powell will be featured in FOW's new 2014 Calendar. See p. 3 to learn how to get one.
A MESSAGE from the DIRECTOR

As 2013 comes to a close, FOW looks back at all we have accomplished this year and looks forward to 2014 when we will celebrate our 90th anniversary with you.

This past year we have completed projects both big and small, such as: Valley Green Stream Stabilization and Parking Lot Improvements; repairs to the Wissahickon Environmental Center; restoration of the trails at the Andorra Natural Area; a stone staircase at Kitchen's Lane; native shrubs and trees planted throughout the park; crew leader training; and bench repairs along Forbidden Drive. (see pp. 4 and 12)

Not all of our work requires a hammer or a shovel. Our Trail Ambassadors have patrolled the park all year long, led numerous hikes and workshops, and staffed FOW events, such as Whispers Along the Wissahickon (see p. 13). Our Board of Directors, also volunteers, completed a Five-Year Strategic Plan with goals to complete the Sustainable Trails Initiative, foster new programs in habitat and water quality, and broaden FOW's constituency and scope.

These goals trace their origin to FOW's beginning, when the community rallied together in 1924 to restore the Wissahickon after a winter storm the previous year destroyed over 200 trees in the park. Northwest Philadelphia neighbors raised funds the following year to purchase and plant 14,000 native trees, as well as shrubs and wildflowers, in Wissahickon Valley Park. The Friends of the Wissahickon was born.

Throughout its first decade, FOW spearheaded numerous projects to preserve the park and create a place of refuge and recreation for the community, such as: dredging Wissahickon Creek; building structures, shelters, structures, trails, and bridle paths; and restoring Harper's Meadow. But one FOW project stands out because of its importance to all park users: the restoration of Valley Green Inn. So it is fitting that FOW will be restoring the Inn throughout 2014 and holding our anniversary celebration there on October 25th.

Where else but Valley Green Inn would we celebrate our start? FOW was born of people coming together to care for the park and the Inn. It has become the central gathering place in the Philadelphia neighborhood. Its enduring symbolism of community engagement and stewardship. Join us at the Inn on October 25, 2014, to celebrate our 90th Anniversary!

For 90 years, FOW has worked with you to preserve the park and its history, all for the benefit of the environment and the community. We are excited to work with you in the coming year and look forward to celebrating our joint efforts with you in the fall. See you at Valley Green!

Maura McCarthy

SAVE THE DATES!

Race in the Park - May 17 • Family Picnic - July 12
Anniversary Celebration at Valley Green Inn - October 25
CELEBRATE 90 YEARS WITH FOW!

FRIENDS OF THE WISSAHICKON

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The mission of the Friends of the Wissahickon is to preserve the natural beauty and wilderness of the Wissahickon Valley and stimulate public interest therein.

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United Way Donations

The Friends of the Wissahickon can receive membership/donations through the United Way. Our United Way number is 9882. If this is the most convenient way for you to give, please do so. Visit our website (www.fow.org) to learn about the benefits of membership in the Friends of the Wissahickon.
FOW Announces Over $1 Million in Grants

FOW has received over $1 million in grant awards for stewardship initiatives in Wissahickon Valley Park and made a formal announcement at the Volunteer Appreciation Night on December 10. The awards include $440,000 from the William Penn Foundation to support the continued growth of FOW’s community engagement and stewardship initiatives in Wissahickon Valley Park and several grants from the Commonwealth Financing Authority under the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED): $271,000 to support tributary and stormwater channel remediation; $250,000 for the implementation of a park-wide trail signage program; and $100,000 to support the restoration of a collapsed stream bank failure along Forbidden Drive.

Annual Public Meeting Held at Cathedral Village

FOW hosted a public meeting to discuss progress to date on the Sustainable Trails Initiative and upcoming projects for 2014 on November 25, 2013. FOW Project Manager Henry Stroud said that sustainable trails revolve around four key concepts: ecology, equity, economy, and liveability. Most work this year was performed in the areas around Valley Green Road, Andorra, Historic Rittenhouse Town, and Kitchen’s Lane. (see p. 4) Volunteers removed 336 bags of trash, planted 361 shrubs and trees, and worked 3,851 hours. Total Investment to date: $375,000. FOW Executive Director Maura McCarthy presented details of the Five-Year Strategic Plan, which includes three major components: completion of the Sustainable Trails Initiative; progress in habitat and water quality; and expansion of FOW’s constituency and scope through branding.

Spring Mill Café Raises $300 for FOW

The Spring Mill Café in Conshohocken raised $300 for FOW from their Classic Car Brunch for a Cause in September. The Classic Car Brunch for a Cause is an opportunity to support a charity or nonprofit and enjoy a great meal while showing off your classic car or motorcycle or just admiring other classic sets of wheels. The Spring Mill Café has been serving French country fare since 1978. It is a BYO that serves lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. The historic property features the original Spring Mill general store and the picturesque converted farmhouse. More information at www.springmill.com.

New Wissahickon Calendar for 2014

The Friends of the Wissahickon will publish a Wissahickon Calendar for 2014, available free to all FOW members. Non-members can purchase the calendar for $12 at www.fow.org; calendars will be shipped the last week in December. Each month features a photo of the Wissahickon and an interesting fact about the park or an important safety tip. Upcoming FOW events are also noted on the calendar so you won’t miss any of our 90th Anniversary Celebration events!

Strike a tree pose for the trees...

Yoga Garden Philly @ 503 South Street, Philadelphia (next to Whole Foods) is hosting yoga classes to benefit the Friends of the Wissahickon:

**All levels welcome... give what you wish!**

FOW benefit classes taught by Chae Yang Bullock:
- October 12, 2013, 5:00-6:15 p.m.
- February 15, 2014, 5:00-6:15 p.m.

**100% of donations will go directly to FOW to support its mission to preserve the natural beauty and wildness of the Wissahickon Valley. Representatives of FOW will be present to provide more information about the Wissahickon, current projects and events, and how locals like you can make the most of the magnificent natural and historical resources the park has to offer! www.fow.org**

Friends of the Wissahickon • Winter 2013
What’s Happening in the Wissahickon

1. **Andorra Natural Area Improvements (FOW)**—Rehabilitate and redesign 18,000 linear feet of trail to mitigate stormwater runoff and reduce sedimentation into Wissahickon Creek; install a public, ADA accessible composting restroom; and build a new back porch for Wissahickon Environmental Center. (STI Stage 4—Wissahickon Environmental Center Stormwater Management).

2. **Valley Green Stream Stabilization and Parking Lot Improvements (FOW)**—Stabilize the stream channel, remove debris from the stream, and make parking lot infrastructure improvements designed to mitigate erosion of the lot. **COMPLETE**

3. **Kitchen’s Lane Trail Construction (FOW)**—Closure and stabilization of an eroding section of trail; construction of two new trail routes designed to enhance user safety and improve connectivity between the Orange Trail and other trails; restoration of 1.75 acres of habitat through invasive removal and native plantings. **COMPLETE**

4. **Historic Rittenhouse Town (FOW)**—Resurfacing and stabilization of an existing trail head to reduce sedimentation into Monoshone Creek. **COMPLETE**

5. **Houston Meadow Reclamation (PPR)**—Tree and shrub clearing; 7 acres of forest thinned to favor native mast producing species; replanting and protecting meadow with 3,800 feet of deer fencing. **COMPLETE** but will be controlling invasive cork trees around the perimeter of the northern end during winter months.

6. **Roxborough Reservoir (PPR)**—Invasive vegetation to be removed in a 3.2-acre area. Planted approximately 300 trees and 300 shrubs in the cleared area along Eva Street. Ongoing invasive control work on the site, especially in the “dry” basin (partially filled with soil from the PWD project).

7. **Wissahickon East Project (WEP)**—Integration of land along Cresheim Creek into Philadelphia Park System. **COMPLETE**

This list is not comprehensive.

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City of Philadelphia Acquires Six Acres of Park Land on Cresheim Creek

by Carl Bennett, Wissahickon East Project

Twenty-four years of neighborhood pressure came to fruition on October 8, 2013, as real estate developers DeSouza-Brown signed over six acres of land in East Mt. Airy to the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department (PPR). This neighborhood pressure has evolved into a non-profit organization, the Wissahickon East Project (WEP), which negotiated a land easement for this parcel in 2006.

This easement is held by the Chestnut Hill Historical Society and prohibits any future development of this land.

This land is now part of the Philadelphia Park System, which will make it the first public park in Upper East Mt. Airy. “We are elated; there are tears in our eyes,” said Dr. Arlene Bennett, long-term community activist and treasurer of WEP.

In 1996 neighbors organized the first opposition to a proposed housing development on Cresheim Creek, which would have included the building of 32 new homes that would have covered the creek. Now, under the leadership of PPR, and with support from Friends of the Wissahickon, WEP will help create a small, low-impact, walk-to neighborhood park that supports the delicate environment of the Cresheim Creek valley. According to Maura McCarthy, Executive Director of FOW, Cresheim Creek is an important contributor to Philadelphia’s drinking water and there are major challenges to the creek environment and to the stabilization of the creek bed.
Parking Lot on Valley Green Road Open

The Valley Green Stream Stabilization and Parking Lot Improvements are complete, and park users may once again park their vehicles in the lot. One of the largest projects FOW has ever undertaken, the changes made to the parking lot and adjacent stream channel have vastly improved conditions in one of the most heavily used areas of the park.

In recent years, large stormwater flows caused the once small, ephemeral stream adjacent to the parking lot to rapidly erode, contributing significant sediment loads into Wissahickon Creek during storm events and causing the lot to partially collapse. Beginning in July of this year, FOW, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) began stabilizing the stream channel and upper parking lot along Valley Green Road.

This project was designed to improve water quality in Wissahickon Creek by helping to meet the EPA Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment and enhance drinking water quality for the City of Philadelphia. It is part of the Wissahickon Stormwater Mitigation and Sediment Reduction Project, a collaborative effort to reduce sedimentation and the loss of forest habitat park wide.

The stream channel has been reengineered to be more resistant to erosion and attenuate large stormwater flows through a series of stepped infiltration pools. The parking lot has been resurfaced and retrofitted with new wheel stops, curbs, and fencing.

Like every large project, this one had its fair share of setbacks and complications. The quarry had trouble keeping up with our demand for large rock, and torrential rains in July led to muddy conditions in the stream channel, slowing down the movement of our machines. Pumps ran constantly as water had to be pumped up and around the construction area while work was underway.

While dealing with unexpected problems and coordinating with multiple agencies can be challenging, the process was extremely rewarding, and FOW is pleased with the result. FOW would like to thank the staffs at PWD, PPR, Skelly and Loy, Inc., and Gessler Construction for all their hard work and assistance.

FOW Stabilizes Trailhead at Historic RittenhouseTown

FOW has further reduced erosion at Historic RittenhouseTown with work on the trailhead and small parking lot for the Orange Trail located next to the paper making studio. These improvements were made possible with additional funding from MERCK for the Wissahickon Stormwater Mitigation and Sediment Reduction Project, which began in 2011. This project enhances work that was previously done in the area to control stormwater, which included closing poorly designed trails to reclaim a quarter acre of forest habitat and constructing an infiltration pond.

How FOW Did it

› Constructed a series of stormwater berms upslope from the trailhead to promote infiltration and diversion of stormwater into existing control ponds.
› Resurfaced the parking lot and driveway with a porous aggregate designed to resist erosion.
› Rebuilt the open culvert along the driveway.
› Created an armored gutter in the lower portion of the driveway directly adjacent to Monoshone Creek.
› Removed vegetation and several hazardous trees to protect historic structures.

Sustainability in Practice

How does FOW reduce waste generated from its projects? In the case of the Valley Green Stream Stabilization and Parking Lot Improvements, which required the excavation of almost 2,000 cubic yards of soil, FOW took this soil to a landfill. The material excavated from the stream channel has been used to create stormwater berms at Historic RittenhouseTown, resurface a vehicle road in the Audora Natural Area, cover an exposed sewer pipe at Kitchen's Lane, and close an old road at the Wissahickon Environmental Center.

Trees that were felled to make way for construction were collected by PPR and stored at the district operations yard. This timber was later milled into lumber and will be used for upcoming structure restoration projects.
In October, geologist Tim Bechtel, Ph.D., gave a presentation at Valley Green Inn on hydraulic fracturing, part of FOW’s popular lecture series Valley Talks, sponsored by Valley Green Bank. Bechtel is a geological, environmental, and geophysical consultant and teaches in the Earth and Environmental Science Departments of the University of Pennsylvania and Franklin & Marshall College. He explained the occurrence of natural gas and methods of extracting it, namely directional drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Below are the answers to a few questions he did not have time to answer during his presentation.

Q. Seismic activity has been reported in areas where horizontal fracturing is being done. Could this be from shale shifting or settling, or do you think it is directly related to the explosive charges? And is information available on the specific explosives being used underground?

A. Seismic activity is the result of deep injection (for disposal) of fluids. These fluids are wastewater—some from fracking, some from other sources. The fracking itself does not create perceptible earthquakes at all. Explosives are not used for fracking. Fracking is short for “hydraulic fracturing,” in which the shale is made more permeable by wedging open tiny joints using high pressure fluids—not explosives. Very small shape-charges are used to perforate the steel casing, but these are quite tiny—not much different from a shotgun shell. Fracking opens generally microscopic scale discontinuities, so there is no evidence, and very little potential, for the shale shifting or settling.

Q. How long do frack wells remain efficient? At what point do you see a fall off in production?

A. Initial production is high, but then declines asymptotically, but not asymptotically to zero. The lifetime of a well will depend on both physics and economics. Once a well is producing, it may continue to produce for a very, very long time. The gas is formed from thermal cracking of the natural organic material (kerogen) in the shale, so gas production involves both already-generated gas (that creates the initial high production), but also gas that is continually generated (such that production declines, but does not drop to zero). So, wells may continue to produce for very long periods of time, and the market price for gas will determine whether it is economical/profitable to continue to keep the well online.

Q. What is the end product of the waste water when it evaporates?

A. A briny sludge that may also contain the non-volatile chemical additives, as well as other minerals and metals leached from the formation.

Q. What happens to the cavities created by gas and oil extracting?

A. There are no macroscopic cavities other than the cased and grouted wellbore itself. Out in the formation, there are systems of generally microscopic discontinuities that allow the gas to flow. When recovery ceases, these will fill back in with the briny water that naturally occurs at these depths.

Q. What would you say is the most detrimental part of fracking?

A. The fracking itself (meaning the specific act of enhancing the permeability of the formation by pumping in high pressure, high volume water and chemicals) is not detrimental. However, the handling of the flowback water at the ground surface probably involves the greatest risk for contamination of the soil and groundwater that humans, wildlife, and livestock might encounter. Note that this is not very different from the handling of many other liquid wastes produced by modern societies. This is, however, a new type of liquid waste that is being generated in very high volumes in a highly localized fashion.

Q. Do you know or does anyone else know the full list of fracking fluids and what their impact is on human health and water? Where can one get this list?

A. The USEPA has a website listing frack water additives, as does StatelinePA.org. The potential impacts on human health represent a very large data gap. The health effects of individual chemicals may be known, but the synergistic effects of proprietary combinations of these chemicals are not well-studied. Public health assessments of the impacts of the whole fracking process have not been done.

Employees from KJK Associates who are graduates from Roots to Reentry work with FOW on a variety of projects in the park. This fall they spread mulch along Valley Green Road, completed some trail work at the Andorra Natural Area, and installed a split rail fence. In this photo, James Pollard helps Steve O’Kula from PPR stack wood at District 4 headquarters. Also working at District 4 this fall were Norman Dash and O. Chapman. Roots to Reentry is a green jobs program for former prison inmates. It is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, in partnership with the Philadelphia Prison System, Bartram’s Garden, and KJK Associates.
News from the Friends of Carpenter’s Woods

by Linda Goschke, President

Frequent summer rains dampened many of the activities and volunteer efforts of the Friends of Carpenter’s Woods (FoCW) this summer. But the rains were good for tree growth, so many of the trees, planted in May by volunteers on LOVE Carpenter’s Woods Spring Fest—Love Your Park Day are doing very well.

Volunteers from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates joined FoCW members John Janick, Louise Hayes, Erica Brendel, John Goschke, and Keith Russell in site prep and planting dogwood, sweet gum, and black gum trees along the edges of the woods. The day was busy, with nature walks led by Sarah Low, Jason Lubar, Ken LeRoy, and Scott Quilet, poetry readings led by Lynn Hoffman, a photo safari led by Linda Goschke, and colorful, migrant warblers providing a lively concert.

A mature American Chestnut in Carpenter’s Woods has flowered and produced seed. FoCW continues to monitor the health of this rare tree and others on the hillside. Several members of FoCW have joined the group of trained volunteers collecting a small percentage of the acorns from our many Carpenter’s Woods oaks as part of the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation/ Pennsylvania Horticultural Society program to cultivate tree stock to replenish our native urban forest. You may see FoCW volunteers in the woods with seed collection bags, scouring the ground for acorns.

Keith Russell, Outreach Coordinator for Audubon Pennsylvania, led 22 participants, many new to FoCW walks, on our fall Bird Walk on October 5. Forty-three species were spotted, including ten species of warblers, five species of woodpeckers, and three fly-over double-crested cormorants. A complete list of species seen that morning can be found at www.focw.org.

PPR Launches Forest Management Framework

by Joan Blaustein, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

The launch of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation’s (PPR) Forest Management Framework at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University featured author Emma Marris, who discussed the new face of nature in the 21st century and challenged us to consider our urban forests as “novel ecosystems.” These systems are new, human-influenced combinations of species that can function as well or better than native ecosystems and provide humans with ecosystem services of various kinds—from water filtration and carbon sequestration to habitat for rare species. This approach poses some serious questions for us to consider:

- Do we value the fact that nature contains a list of things that were here a thousand years ago, or do we value it because it has its own processes that are not under human control?
- As the earth responds to changes we humans have made, does it make sense to destroy ecosystems that thrive under the new conditions? This is nature’s response to what we have done to it.

Novel ecosystems may be our best hope for the future, as their components adapt to the human-dominated world using the time-tested method of natural selection. Could we hope to do any better than nature in managing and arranging our natural world for a warmer, more populous future?

When the Friends of the Wissahickon was formed in 1924 and later partnered with Fairmount Park (now PPR) on forest restoration efforts, those efforts included: developing guidelines for planting in bare areas; screening industrial buildings on the borders of the parks; and planting only native species. Going forward, PPR asks FOW and all our citizen partners to work with us to plan for our future forests. The Forest Management Framework is a living document that results in a set of activities and steps that return healthy functioning and self-perpetuating processes to the forests. As our forests adapt to changing conditions, so must we employ a new palette of management approaches to ensure that our forestlands continue to benefit the citizens of Philadelphia.

Joan Blaustein is Director of Urban Forestry and Ecosystem Management Division for Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

INVASIVE WORKSHOP

CEDRELA SMACK DOWN A BIG SUCCESS! In October, FOW volunteers learned how to identify and effectively remove Cedrela sinensis, an invasive tree found in Wissahickon Valley Park. Tom Dougherty, (left) Land Steward from Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, taught the group about selecting the proper removal technique for this species, electronic tracking of invasive removal projects and hours, and proper tool selection. This workshop was held in partnership with PPR. These volunteers can now independently remove Cedrela sinensis throughout the park and report back to FOW and PPR on their activities.
**Spotted in the Wissahickon**

Why are we seeing coyotes and eagles in the Wissahickon?

You cannot plan moments like this:
At a Valley Talk in the Spring, just as guest speaker Ruth Pfeffer began her lecture on birds of the Wissahickon, an eagle flew by Valley Green Inn, hovering about ten feet above the grove. Everything stilled as the audience took a moment to catch a glimpse of the majestic sight, one that has only recently been available in the Wissahickon with the arrival of a pair of nesting eagles.

About seven years before their arrival this spring, park visitors began spotting another predator in the Wissahickon: coyotes. Their appearances in the park indicates that the Wissahickon is supporting a chain of life that can sustain animals at the top of their food chains, and it also stirs a reminder that their natural habitats are becoming more limited.

These predators are choosing green spaces such as Wissahickon Valley Park because they have fewer acceptable options.

The appearance of these predators speaks to the success of the work of the Wissahickon Watershed Association and others who are working to increase those corridors and make the green spaces healthier and more viable so these animals can survive.

—Maura McCarthy, Friends of the Wissahickon

### Sources


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (www.fws.gov).


### Coyotes

Coyotes look very similar to dogs. They have German shepherd coloring, but to correctly identify one, look for yellow eyes, black lines running up the front of their front legs, and a downward, cylindrical shaped tail.

Coyotes will eat almost anything: mice, lizards, road-killed deer, even a sickly cat or small dog. They are nocturnal, rarely aggressive toward people, and will usually run if approached. They do not form packs like wolves, but travel in pairs and family units. Families will usually stay together until fall, and sometimes into the winter when breeding activity starts.

The next time you are hiking in the Wissahickon in the late evening or early morning, and you see a German shepherd-looking animal off leash, take a second look.

Maybe it is a coyote. Marvel at how wonderful it is to spot one in the wild, but with all wild animals, keep your distance.

—Trish Fries, Wissahickon Environmental Center

### Bald Eagles

Bald eagles are nesting in Philadelphia at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, and Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester Counties thanks to the efforts of many organizations such as the American Eagle Foundation. They have been removed from the Endangered Species List.

Ruth Pfeffer is an expert bird and photographer, and the owner of Binding with Ruth. She teaches at the North Penn Continuing Education Center and the Mittleman Arboretum, and gives slide presentations and leads bird hikes. She has been leading birding expeditions in the U.S. and abroad since 1970. More information at http://www.birdingwithruth.com

#### Where else can you spot bald eagles?

Bald eagles are nesting in Philadelphia at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, and Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester Counties thanks to the efforts of many organizations such as the American Eagle Foundation. They have been removed from the Endangered Species List.

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#### Why are we seeing coyotes and eagles in the Wissahickon?

Do coyotes howl?

Coyotes howl infrequently, but when they do, especially on a cold quiet day, or right before dark, it carries for a long way in wild areas. Hounds are thought to be used by coyotes to announce their location.

Coyotes are known to howl in response to loud noises like fire alarm whistles. They also seem willing to respond to most coyote howling calls, as long as they hear them.

—Pennsylvania Game Commission

#### Coyotes

Many of us think of coyotes as being in the western states, long despised by ranchers and landowners, but did you know that they live here, in Philadelphia? The eastern coyote (Canis latrans) is found in every county in Pennsylvania, and in the past decade the numbers have increased so dramatically that they are now found in Wissahickon Valley Park and surrounding neighborhoods. They have been spotted several times in Northwest Philadelphia—in yards, under porches, and along train tracks.

Usually associated with the western United States, coyotes now live in every state east of the Mississippi River. Hunters and trappers harvested more than 20,000 coyotes statewide in 2005 alone, according to Pennsylvania Game Commission survey results. They can be found almost anywhere, from the suburbs to the Alleghenies. In Pennsylvania, eastern coyotes have become more common than black bears, bobcats, and otters over the past 30 years.

The eastern coyote is larger than its western cousin. DNA has revealed that they are a hybridization of the wolf and western coyote. According to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a large influx of coyote appeared in the northern part of the state in the 1960s, coming from the Catskill Mountains. Their range expanded over the following 20 years until they were found throughout Pennsylvania, with the highest populations found in the northern counties.

Coyotes are herd animals that run in packs called howlings. A typical howling is a series of howls, with howls separated by brief pauses. Coyotes are known to howl in response to loud noises like fire alarm whistles. They also seem willing to respond to most coyote howling calls, as long as they hear them.

—Pennsylvania Game Commission

#### Bald Eagles

Bald eagles were being sighted frequently in the Wissahickon Valley. A pair of eagles nested on private property near the park this past year and were successful in raising two chicks. It will take five years for the young birds to reach maturity.

Thanks to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Recovery Project, the eagle nest count is up in Pennsylvania. (For more information on the history and recovery project of the bald eagles, visit www.fws.gov/midwestbald/eagle/recovery/bid/)

“Close to home, the Hawk Watch volunteers are keeping track of progress in the Wissahickon Valley. According to James Stewart, one of the three coordinators of the Hawk Watch, volunteers at Mitty Hill observed 28,169 raptors, including 109 eagles, this year.

The Hawk Watch runs annually from September 1 through October 31, and is located in Fort Washington State Park.

Many individuals are sharing their eagle sightings in the Wissahickon. One birder reported seeing a bald eagle perching across from the Valley Green Inn on a daily basis. Another report described seeing an eagle fly along Germantown Pike with an eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus) in its talons. Bald eagles tend to congregate, and adults and their fledglings have also been spotted perching at the Elmwood Zoo in Norristown.

One morning, during a birding adventure at the Morris Arboretum Wetlands, the youngest member of the group spotted an adult eagle along the water’s edge. The bird had a fish in its talons that was too heavy to lift, so it dived on the perimeter of the water. The group observed the bird from at least 40 yards away. After a few minutes, the bird swooped up from the water’s edge, and perched, with its wings extended, on a small dead tree. Excitement erupted at the sight of this regal creature. Before long, this majestic flyer was gone, but the joy that we felt stayed with us.

The bald eagle was adopted as the official bird emblem of the United States in 1978 and has struggled to exist. American farmers would shoot the eagles because the birds would be seen near their livestock. The loss of habitat and the use of DDTs (chemicals used to protect crops) both contributed to their decline.

In 1972, the use of DDTs was banned by Congress. The bald eagle was placed on the Endangered Species List in 1978 in the lower 48 States. It was removed from this list in 1995—today it is a winner for the Endangered Species Act. The pair of Eagles that nested this year in the Wissahickon Valley will hopefully meet with success again in the coming year, and many park users will have the chance to observe their nesting activities during their courtship.

—Ruth Pfeffer, Binding with Ruth
Become an FOW Trail Ambassador

Join the Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW) and become a Trail Ambassador this winter. FOW is offering a fall training session for this popular volunteer program. The application deadline is Friday, January 31, 2014.

Trail Ambassadors are park volunteers who assist and educate people in the park with anything from directions to safety needs to park history, flora, and fauna. Ambassadors perform their service in the park and participate in ongoing education. They become experts in the Wissahickon and have the opportunity to delve deeply into their particular topics of interest while providing a valuable public service. Trail Ambassadors share their knowledge by:

• interacting with and providing assistance to park users while walking the trails;
• staffing information tables at FOW volunteer days and events;
• leading walks in the Wissahickon Valley;
• conducting surveys of park users and wildlife.

Training will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., from February 5 through March 26, 2014. There will also be one Saturday first aid training session (date to be determined). Applicants accepted into the program are required to pay a $100 registration fee, sign a one-time volunteer release form, and obtain their criminal background check and child-abuse clearance.

Ambassadors must be FOW members or willing to join the organization. The number of open positions is limited. For more information, program requirements, and an application form, visit www.fow.org/volunteering/trail-ambassadors. Contact FOW Outreach Manager Sarah Marley with questions and to schedule an interview at marley@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x109.

Trail Ambassador Walks . . .

Registration is recommended for all hikes (required if indicated) so that participants can be informed of weather or other emergency cancellations. Unless otherwise specified, Trail Ambassador hikes may use rocky, rugged trails that may be wet and slippery. Wear sturdy shoes or boots with socks. Long pants are recommended for protection against occasional poison ivy and possible ticks. Bring water and a snack if desired. Unless otherwise noted, children seven and older are welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult. Walks are cancelled in heavy rain or icy conditions. For more information or to register, contact Sarah Marley at marley@fow.org. Visit www.fow.org for updates.

Trail Ambassador Scott Quietel leading a hike in the Wissahickon Valley.

Orange Trail Hike with Merritt Rhoad
Sunday, January 19 1 pm
Walk along Forbidden Drive to Bell’s Mill Rd. and then along the Orange and White Trails to the Indian Statue with return to Northwestern Ave. along Forbidden Drive. Learn a little more about Wissahickon history and nature. Difficulty: moderate. Distance: --4 miles. Duration: 2-2.5 hours. Meet at Northwestern Ave & Forbidden Drive.

Kid-Friendly Hike with Marv Schwartz
Saturday, January 11 1 pm
This hike will take in many of the most interesting sites in the Wissahickon: Valley Green Inn, Forbidden Drive, the Livezey Dam, Gorgas Creek, the Fingerspan Bridge. Will stop for a snack on the stone steps high above the creek and continue along the stream to Devil’s Pool and Pee Wee rock on our return to the Inn. Suitable for children 6 and older, accompanied by an adult. Difficulty: moderate. Hiking shoes or sneakers required. Pack your snacks and drinks, and dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at the Valley Green Inn.

The Power of Geology with Scott Quietel
Saturday, February 22 9 am
After flowing generally south for about 5 miles, the Wissahickon Creek takes a sharp turn to the west, near where Monoshone Creek comes in, and then continues west to its confluence with the Schuykill. Why? Much of the answer has to do with the surrounding rock. This hike will focus on a noteworthy large rock formation that preserves millions of years of geologic history. What forces combined to create such massive formations, put graceful folds within many of the rocks, and put the creek in its place? Difficulty: mildly strenuous. Meet near the Battle of Germantown Tablet, in the parking area where Forbidden and Lincoln Drives meet.

Orange Trail Hike with Merritt Rhoad
Sunday, March 23 1 pm
Walk along Forbidden Drive to Bell’s Mill Rd. and then along the Orange and White Trails to the Indian Statue with return to Northwestern Ave. along Forbidden Drive. Learn a little more about Wissahickon history and nature. Difficulty: moderate. Distance: --4 miles. Duration: 2-2.5 hours. Meet at Northwestern Ave & Forbidden Drive.

. . . and Talks

Trail Ambassador Talks are held at The Cedars House on Sundays. They are open to the public at no charge. These programs are suitable for children ten and older accompanied by a responsible adult. No reservations are necessary, but are recommended so that you may be informed if there are changes to the program. Talks are cancelled in the event of hazardous transportation due to snow or ice. Visit www.fow.org for updates.

January 12 2 pm
The Wissahickon and the Revolutionary War. A 45 minute presentation by Jack Coleman, including both facts and popular myths.

January 19 2 pm
Understanding Horses. A presentation by Cynthia Turecki on how a horse sees its surroundings and thinks.

January 26, 2 pm
17th and 18th century Mills and Homesteads in the Wissahickon Gorge. A 45 minute presentation by Sarah West.

February 9 2 pm
Roads and Roadhouses in the Wissahickon. A 45 minute presentation by Sarah West.

February 23 2 pm
The Coming of Spring: a Program of Photographic Impressions. A presentation by Bruce Wagner. If weather permits, this presentation will include a walk along Forbidden Drive to observe the signs of spring.

March 9 2 pm
The Historical Geology of the Wissahickon Gorge. A 45 minute presentation by Sarah West and Mike Kopena followed by a short, easy geology walk along Forbidden Drive between Northwestern Avenue and Bell’s Mill Rd. (if weather permits).
TA Field Report

Ambassadors: Justin Milgrim and Marv Schwartz
Date: 10/9/13
Shift time: 9:30am-12pm
Mode of Transportation: Hike
Number of Interactions: 4
Types of Interactions: Info about the park; assistance rendered to park user
Dogs off leash: 7
Zone: A--NW Stables

Shift Summary: We walked from Northwestern Ave. to Bell’s Mill Road, took the Orange, Lavender and White Trails to Rex Ave. and returned on Forbidden Drive. Met the woman who designed the steps leading down to the Tedyuscung statue and her three unleashed dogs. Passed a large group from Philadelphia University studying park/people interactions. Picked up a little trash and a couple of bags of dog feces. The drive and trails were, overall, quite free of litter. Gave out a couple of FOW newsletters.

FOW Trail Ambassador field reports are routinely submitted after a patrol shift in the Wissahickon.

Volunteer Profile:

CYNTHIA TURECKI

Cynthia Turecki has volunteered with FOW for seven years and is an FOW Trail Ambassador.

HOME: I was born and raised in Manayunk and still live in the house I grew up in. I ran in the Wissahickon all my life. I rode horses out of a barn on Parker Avenue called Pop’s Stable and rode at every other public stable in the area.

WORK: By day, I sit behind a computer screen. I work for an insurance company that deals in property and casualty commercial insurance and design forms for an application that is used by our agents to issue policies.

Volunteers for FOW Because: I became an FOW volunteer because I thought it was important to give back to my community. After I bought my horse in July 2005, I went to a neighborhood meeting at the Roxborough Memorial Hospital about FOW’s Sustainable Trails Initiative and thought, since I would be riding the trails, it was important for me to know what was going on and that I should get involved.

Best Part of Being an FOW Volunteer: What I like best is meeting other people and sharing the knowledge and passion I have about horses. I also get to meet so many people who are happy to share their passions with me, especially their passion of preserving the park. I like to learn about the trails and work with others who use the trails to learn and share different ideas. Horses have been traversing through the Wissahickon since the beginning of time and I feel especially blessed to have both the Wissahickon and my horse so close to home. The Wissahickon is where my horse lives. We all take care of our homes, and to me it is just as important to take care of the home where my horse lives. Sharing information about horses with others and learning about the Wissahickon is having the best of both worlds.

Favorite Spot in the Wissahickon: It is so hard to pick a favorite place; each place in the Wissahickon is so special, and each season presents something new every time it blossoms. It is alive and different each and every day. I love the trails and I love the creek. Perhaps the Andorra Natural Area is the quietest—the Meadow is so peaceful. Sometimes coming into the area near Valley Green Inn feels like coming home. Seeing the warming sheds fills me with a comforting feeling. I remember once, when I got caught in a rainstorm with thunder and lightning, I waited out the storm in the warming sheds.

Earliest Memory of the Wissahickon: I had been a little girl in the Wissahickon when I first experienced horses in the park. My aunt used to take my sisters, my cousins, and me, and we would all walk and pick up horse manure for her garden. She had the most beautiful azalea and rosebush garden on the street. I remember looking up at the rider and thinking how beautiful she looked on that horse and thought: someday I will have my own horse and ride here in the Wissahickon. How fortunate am I that my dreams have come true?
**National Public Lands Day**

Our first annual Fall Creek Clean-up in September was welcomed by many and turned out to be a huge success. We met at Valley Green Inn and worked our way along the Wissahickon Creek toward the Mt. Airy Bridge. The group was large enough to extensively search for rubbish among the dense vegetation on both sides of the waterway. We had a great showing from students at AIM Academy and Bowdoin College affiliates. _A special thanks to Hi-Pointe Cafe and T&F Farmers Pride for their donations of coffee and tomato pies._

**Volunteer School Groups Make the Grade**

The arrival of fall and cooler weather marked the return of countless numbers of students that dedicate their time to work in the Wissahickon. Over the years, FOW has established relationships with many different organizations focused on conservation work in the natural environment. These relationships allow us to accomplish a lot of work and hopefully inspire a dedicated user group to embrace the park and its natural beauty. Below are a few of the schools that FOW has the privilege of working with on a regular basis.

_The Crefeld School_ students volunteer time almost every week. With dedicated leadership from David Dannenberg (FOW Board Member and Crefeld teacher), this group really gets their hands dirty when tasked with one of the many projects that we throw at them. They approach each project with a raw enthusiasm that inspires everyone around them.

_The Friends Select_ students really enjoy being outdoors in the Wissahickon. Every workday with them is filled with laughter and jokes, which in turn leads to happy productive people. Much work is accomplished, which is why they are always welcome.

_The Friends Select_ students are shown here with trash and recyclables collected.

**Structures Crew**

FOW’s Structures Crew has been hard at work this fall repairing park benches along Forbidden Drive, picnic tables at the Boy Scout headquarters, and the gate at Wises Mill Road. They also replaced railings on the Yellow Trail bridge near Gorgas Lane and the warming shed at Valley Green. And they still found time to mill more wood from black locust trees in the Wissahickon for future projects!

**November is Planting Month**

FOW is not only planting natives in the Wissahickon, but monitoring each species to determine a healthy survivability rate. Each plant is selected for the proper habitat and tagged to ensure a thorough restoration process. _A special thanks to Len Mellman & Temple University, Arcadia University, Germantown Friends School, and Philadelphia University for all their effort in organizing and planting and these four locations:_

- **Kitchens Lane** was planted as part of the completion of new trail construction and the restoration follow-up.
- The swale at **Blue Bell Hill** was re-vegetated as part of an ongoing restoration process of a two-year-old trail closure. It was Philadelphia Insurance Companies second company workday this year—great work!
- We celebrated Temple Universities Global Day of Service on November 9 with a massive turnout of 49 volunteers to plant closure sites at the **Andorra Natural Area**. All the plants were sunk into the ground, and we had time left over to tackle some invasive removal and clear some nasty vines off of some older plantings.
- The final day of vegetation work was completed at **St. Martin’s Lane**. As a celebration of Love Your Park Day on November 16, over 200 willow and dogwood stakes were strategically placed along the riparian access points under the bridge crossing Cresheim Creek.

**Philadelphia County Pennsylvania Equine Council**

A cool October morning was the setting for a small gathering of equestrians ready for trail building. This group lacked in numbers it made up for in enthusiasm and hard work. The Equine Council built a new section of trail that is an integral part of the Andorra Natural Area. This pleasantly meandering trail required a dedicated crew to remove several onerous stumps, clear vegetation, and wrestle invasive trees to the ground. We look forward to working with the Philadelphia County Pennsylvania Equine Council on the trails and collaborating with them on many new trail projects in the future.

**Special Thanks for a Dirty Job**

_Thanks to those volunteers who have been moving dirt at the Andorra Natural Area and Kitchen’s Lane: Kevin Kramer, Steve O’Kula, Rich Berman, and John Cassidy._ Without your efforts we would all be buried.

**Trail TLC**

Everyone knows that a trail left unattended in the Wissahickon will eventually be engulfed in an array of diverse vegetation. That is why we dispatch legions of dedicated volunteers to walk the trails armed with the proper tools to cut back the tendrils of growth and reclaim the open corridor. This fall, FOW volunteers focused on Houston Meadow, Hermit’s Lane, the Lavender Trail, and various sections of the Orange Trail that were in need of a little TLC.
Whispers Along the Wissahickon

FOW Celebrates 10 Years of Whispers Along the Wissahickon

When the Friends first hosted Whispers Along the Wissahickon in 2004, it was intended to be a “friend raiser.” Three former FOW Board members (Cindy Affleck, Cindy Heckscher, and Lyn Montgomery) conceived the event as a means of encouraging families to come to the Wissahickon and enjoy it at nightfall. By fostering a connection to the park, it was hoped these families would become supporters of its preservation in the future. By the fourth year, the event, always held at the Wissahickon Environmental Center, sold out and it has continued to sell out quickly ever since. This year marks the popular event’s tenth year.

“Whispers Along the Wissahickon sells out because it has such a unique blending of enjoyable activities for families,” says FOW Executive Director Maura McCarthy. “We at FOW love it because it is a great opportunity to get the public into the Wissahickon enjoying the park.”

Whispers Along the Wissahickon would not be so successful without the help of the staff from the Wissahickon Environmental Center, PPR Groundskeeper Steve O’Kula, and many great volunteers. “FOW is also grateful to all our sponsors and local merchants who donate goods for the event,” says McCarthy.

Thanks to our volunteers!

- Pete Andrus
- Barbara Berman
- Rich Berman
- Crefeld School students
- Mary Hathaway
- Jon McDevitt
- Anoushka Mercer
- Dan Mercer
- Mary Phalan
- Cynthia Turecki
- Sarah West
- Wendy Willard

Gifts in Kind

- Baker Street Bread
- Chestnut Hill Coffee
- Chestnut Hill Sports
- HobNob
- Night Kitchen Bakery
- Oxford Circus
- Tavern on the Hill
- Wissahickon Cyclery

Sponsors

- Valley Green Bank
- LIVE BALLOONS PARTY ENTERTAINMENT
- best nest
- MAPLE ACRES FARMS
- VALLEY GREEN
- GIANT
- STONE BREWING CO.

Music around the bonfire from Urban Drawl

An anonymous ninja playing limbo

Children line up every year for Airbrush Tatoos

Another Whispers tradition: hay rides down Forbidden Drive

Friends of the Wissahickon thank our bank and good neighbor

We appreciate Valley Green Bank reinvesting in our community and in the Wissahickon Valley!
Green Roofs Taking Root in Philadelphia

by William Hengst, Ph.D., Former FOW Board Member

In Philadelphia and around the nation, green roofs are taking root. Not a new idea. Think of thatched-roof cottages in England, sod roofs on the prairie, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. (Historians believe the building’s tiered rooftops also produced fruits and vegetables.) But green roofs today are often multi-purpose, far more creative, and come in all sizes. In 2011, Philadelphia ranked fourth in the nation for total green-roof square footage, behind Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York, in an annual survey by Green Roofs for Healthy Cities.

According to landscape architect and author Lauren Mandel—featured speaker at a recent FOW Valley Talk—green rooftops result in several environmental benefits, most notably reduced stormwater runoff, and potential decreased heating and cooling costs, especially for low-rise buildings. Instead of the conventional black-surface roof, green roofs have softer, pervious materials installed above the original roof, which capture and slow the surge into public storm-water collection systems. So, green roof owners are eligible for reductions in the stormwater fee charged by the Philadelphia Water Department.

Typically, green rooftops extend the life of a conventional roof two or three times—normal life expectancy is 15 to 20 years. Green roofs also help improve air quality because they filter pollutants. Other benefits include: providing wildlife habitat, particularly for birds and bees; creating opportunities for growing food crops; and adding color and texture, affording attractive views for those who will see them from a distance.

Instead of topsoil, a growing medium—far lighter than dirt—is substituted. The one-acre, green roof at the PECO headquarters in Center City, Philadelphia’s largest green roof, uses a medium of finely crushed expanded clay and other lightweight materials with a dash of compost, topped off with pre-grown Sedum mats.

Whether a small-scale home garden, a restaurant, or hotel venue for “roof-fresh produce,” more and more ecologically-conscious folks and businesses are turning to rooftop gardening. Urban rooftop gardens are becoming popular ventures for high-end restaurants and hotels, which grow their own produce—most notably in New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, and Montreal. Although Philadelphia lacks a rooftop garden restaurant, Mandel indicated during her Valley Talk presentation that both the Four Seasons Hotel and the Union League in Center City grow rooftop vegetables for their diners.

Because high winds are the bane of rooftop gardening, you will not find them on top of skyscrapers, but a modest 4,500 square-foot green roof sits on top of the Comcast Center in Philadelphia. The 47,000 square-foot green roof at the PECO headquarters, however, is on the eighth floor, not on the tower. Before constructing a green roof, an engineering analysis of the load-bearing capacity is needed, and further structural support may be required for existing buildings.

Mandel is well informed on this topic. She works as a project manager for Roofmeadow, a local firm with over 2.5 million square feet of built, green rooftops in the United States, and is the author of EAT UP: the Inside Scoop on Rooftop Agriculture (New Society Publishers, 2013), the first full-length book about rooftop food production.

Green Roofs in Philadelphia

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) offers monthly tours of the PECO green roof. They resume April 2014 through October, the third Tuesday of each month from 5 to 6 pm. Individual reservations can be made at PHSonline.org. Arrangements for private group tours, call PHS at 215-988-8857. Green roofs can be seen at the main branch of the Free Library and the Morris Arboretum. Listed here are green roofs designed and built by Roofmeadow (in addition to PECO and several private residences). Some of these organizations have green roofs on more than one building.

The Barnes Foundation
Germantown Friends School
LaSalle University
Philadelphia Fencing Academy
St. Joseph's University
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Friends Center
Haverford College
Pennsylvania Ballet
Plaza at King of Prussia
University of Pennsylvania

Tree House Getting New Green Roof

A ~390-square-foot green roof (minus a small area for a skylight) will be installed at the Wissahickon Environmental Center in the Andorra Natural Area on top of the new porch, scheduled to be built in 2014. Roofmeadow has designed this green roof and FOW has provided most of the funding. “The green roof will be an education tool for our visitors, and will further our commitment to stormwater management,” says Trish Fries, Environmental Education Program Specialist at WEC.
Check Out The Cedars House

The Cedars House is a unique café situated on Forbidden Drive near Northwestern Avenue. The Cedars House offers breakfast, lunch, and snacks throughout the year (with hours changing seasonally). Visit www.cedarshouse.com for seasonal hours, and Facebook for information on weather-related closings. Menu items include coffee and juices, power bars, and protein smoothies, yogurt and granola, homemade soups and sandwiches, quiche, salty snacks, and sweet treats. The Cedars House is available for rent for parties, classes, lectures, fitness activities, group events, and more. A menu of weather-related cancellations. Unless otherwise noted, children seven and older are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Walks are cancelled in heavy rain or icy conditions. More information on p. 10. Questions or registration, contact Sarah Marley at marleydfow@gmail.com. Visit www.fow.org for updates.

Trail Ambassador Hikes

Trail Ambassador Hikes is available for rent for parties, classes, lectures, fitness activities, group events, and more. A menu of weather-related cancellations. Unless otherwise noted, children seven and older are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Walks are cancelled in heavy rain or icy conditions. More information on p. 10. Questions or registration, contact Sarah Marley at marleydfow@gmail.com. Visit www.fow.org for updates.

NEW Members

FOW is pleased to welcome the following new members, who joined the Friends of the Wissahickon from September through November 2013.

Mr. Irv Ackelsberg Ms. Julia Gray Mrs. Beatrice Rider
Mr. Brett Altman Ms. Dan Herman Mrs. Anne Rife
Ms. Carol Ambruster Ms. Sara Hirschler Ms. Katherine Robinson
Mr. Timothy Ammon Mr. Daniel Hoffman Mr. and Mrs. David Rooney
Mr. Theodore Apple Ms. Ruth Hoxsie Mr. Kenneth Rose
Mr. Gerry Aubrey Mr. Daniel Hyman Mr. Jonathan Rosenberg
Dr. Steven Averbuch Ms. Kim Igeritz Mr. Lee Sargard
Ms. Cecelia Baize Mr. Frederic Jacoby Ms. Kathleen Sculion
L. Baker Mr. William Jantsch Mr. Tim Shapiro
Mr. Allen Bartlett Jr. Ms. Judith Karlin Ms. Carrie Sherretta
Ms. Janine Beale Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Koller Mr. Peter Silverman
Ms. Farley Bills Mr. Paul Kegro Mr. Stephen Sinclair
Ms. Gwendolyn Binder Ms. Janet Kroll Ms. Marie Stanina
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Biebing Mr. Stuart Kurz Mr. Andrea Steinberg
Ms. Jane Borgerhoff Ms. Pamela Learned Ms. Lucille Stephens
Mr. Brett Brasler Mr. Wynn Lee Margot and Philip Sullivan
Mr. James Brenneman Ms. Ina Lipman Ms. Eliza Taylor
Ms. Laura Bult Ms. Louise Lisi Ms. Ellen Redadi
Mr. Jared Bunda Ms. Maryanne Lynch Ms. Ann Tegnell
Ms. Patty Cheek Ms. Rub and Peggy MacGregor Mr. Richard Tschopp
Mr. Joseph Christopher Ms. Pauline Martin Mr. Thomas VanWinkle
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Cohen Mr. James Matthews Mr. Brad Maule
Mr. Jon Cohen Mr. Seth McDowell Mr. Jack Weaver
Mr. Harry Coslett Mrs. Lora McMeans Mr. Emily Wheeler
Mr. Robert Czap Ms. Rosemary McNicholl Mr. George Weiss, MD
Mr. John Deckop Ms. Robert Mitchell Mr. and Mrs. Brian Welsh
Mr. Avi Docter Ms. Rosalyn McCann Ms. Eliza Whetzel
Ms. Noa Dierks Ms. Robert Mitchell Mr. and Mrs. David Mitchell
Ms. Mary Dunn Ms. Doris Moss Mrs. Farley Whetzel
Mr. and Mrs. Davis Dunn Mr. Steven Moyer Mr. Horace Williams
Ms. Virginia Ellis Ms. Deirdre Mullen Ms. Jean Williams
Mr. Peter Ennis Mr. and Mrs. Lee Mullen Ms. Susan Wilson
Mr. Claude Epstein Mr. Robert Nappen Mr. James Wuoenschel
Mr. David Evans Ms. Marion Novell Ms. Rosey Yaster
Mrs. Gail Flint Ms. Christi Penrose Ms. Sherley Young
Ms. Paullette Force Ms. Maria Pesch Ms. Nespiv Young
Ms. Jennifer Friedman Ms. Mary Poste Mr. Stephen Zane
Ms. Rachel Fuld Ms. Barbara Powers Ms. Jewell Zellers
Ms. Sarah Gabriel Mrs. Dorian Redburn Ms. Mary Ziembta
Mr. Michael Giessmann Ms. Sarah Ricks

Friends of the Wissahickon • Winter 2013
WISSAHICKON AT 215-247-0417 OR office@fow.org.

CALENDAR

Ave. & Andorra Rd.

www.shawmontrunningclub.com. runners. All levels welcome. Emphasis is on fun!

7:30am. From 3rd Saturday in Oct. thru 1st Saturday in November. 2nd Saturday in May thru 2nd Saturday in Oct. start at 6:30pm sharp at Valley Green Inn. For updates and more information on their programs call 215-438-5711, e-mail programs@rittenhousetown.org, or visit historicrittenhousetown.org. Ongoing maple sugaring demonstrations, mini pancakes served with real maple syrup, a taste test of different pancake toppings, and freshly made maple candy to taste. Pennsylvania Maple Syrup products available for purchase. Forbidden Drive near Northwest Avenue. No registration necessary. All ages. Free.

UN-VALENTINES FULL MOON HIKE • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 • 7-9PM
Need something to do with a few of your single friends this Valentine's Day? Enjoy a hike in the winter woods with old friends and new. Afterwards, warm up around the camp fire with hot chocolate and a box of chocolates. Adults only. $5/person.

WINTER WATERFALLS • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 • 1-3PM
Learn how snowflakes form, create your own ice sun catcher, and help make ice cream to enjoy! Then, if it’s sunny outside, bring your boots and sled to have fun in the snow. All ages. Space is very limited. Free.

TASTES OF SPRING • SATURDAY, MARCH 22 • 1-2:30PM
Celebrate the first weekend of spring searching for the earliest leaves of the new season. Enjoy some spicebush tea and other dishes made with some of the plants that we find. All ages. Free.

Method of Payment

☐ Check Enclosed (payable to the Friends of the Wissahickon)
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Please return to: 8708 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118 • tel 215-247-0417 • office@fow.org • www.fow.org

Contributions to the Friends are tax deductible as permitted by current laws.

The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll free, within Pennsylvania (800) 732-0999.