FROM the PRESIDENT

The Friends of the Wissahickon is celebrating our 90th Anniversary this year, and while there is much to celebrate, this anniversary year also finds us commencing our second 90 years with a multi-pronged, five-year strategic plan for growth in our reach, our visibility, and our stewardship in the Wissahickon Valley.

While the early years of FOW saw much work done in preserving the park and the completion of projects like the restoration of Valley Green Inn, current activities are on a much larger scale. The most visible of these is our Sustainable Trails Initiative, in which, through the combined efforts of our great staff, membership, funders, and board members, we are already halfway through a five-year, $10 million budget plan to restore and/or rebuild 50 miles of trails in the Wissahickon Valley. The exclamation point for our anniversary year will be our Gala celebration event on October 25, which will showcase the restorations and improvements made to Valley Green Inn over the past year. (See page 4.)

Looking forward, this newly formed strategic plan will help to align the mission of the Friends of the Wissahickon with the needs of the organization, the park, and its surrounding constituents at a time when issues that were barely reviewed 90 years ago are now key environmental and organizational issues necessary to the health and future prosperity of FOW and the park.

The exclamation point for our anniversary year will be our Gala celebration event on October 25, which will showcase the restorations and improvements made to Valley Green Inn over the past year.

One such issue is water quality. According to the Philadelphia Water Department, the Wissahickon watershed contributes to the drinking water for a third of Philadelphia’s citizens who are located in Center City and the northwest. FOW realizes how important it is to expand our knowledge of and involvement in this area. Teaming with our upstream neighbors, the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, is an example of expanding our scope and creating a partnership to focus on this area of great concern. A second issue is this very one of partnerships; joining forces with other similar-minded organizations can create results greater than any one organization might accomplish on its own.

A third strategic issue for the years ahead, and equally as important as the other two, is how our ninety-year-old organization can most effectively reach out to all of our park users and stewards of the Valley, and improve our involvement and interaction with them. To this end, we have recently hired a marketing firm which has given us a report full of helpful ideas and new guidance for our efforts. I sincerely hope that all of you reading this newsletter will take stock of how you interact with, benefit from, and contribute to the mission of FOW—and join your fellow FOW members in these exciting developments.

Will Whetzel, President

Friends of the Wissahickon thank our bank and good neighbor
VALLEY GREEN BANK
You count with us.

We appreciate Valley Green Bank reinvesting in our community and in the Wissahickon Valley!

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.

Cover photo credits: Allen Aisenstein, Chestnut Hill Historical Society, Steven Powell, Robert Shaw, and Eileen Tonkinson.
**VALLEY TALKS**

6 pm at Valley Green Inn

Valley Talks are free and open to the public.

*Sponsored by*

**VALLEY GREEN BANK**

You count with us.

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**September 16**

**Philadelphia’s Future: The Increasing Impact of Climate Change with Frank Niepold**

Climate change is noticeable and affecting Americans in a variety of ways. The *National Climate Assessment* is the most comprehensive report to date. It presents extensive evidence and covers climate change impacts on various regions and sectors, as well as adaptation and mitigation. Frank Niepold will present an overview of the assessment and its findings with a focus on the Northeast. He is the Climate Education Coordinator at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Program Office, a co-chair of the U.S. Global Change Research Program’s Communications and Education Interagency Working Group, and lead writer of “Education, Training, and Outreach” in the *U.S. Climate Action Report*.

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**October 14**

**Envisioning a New Fairmount Park with Harris M. Steinberg, FAIA**

“The New Fairmount Park,” a recent study by PennPraxis, aims to create a vision/action plan for East and West Park so this watershed park, including the Wissahickon, remains relevant in the 21st century without undermining the relationship between public water and access to nature and their roles in supporting urban life. Harris M. Steinberg will present the results of this study. Steinberg is the Founding Executive Director of PennPraxis, the applied research arm of the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, where he serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning. Civic visioning is a hallmark of his work at PennPraxis and he lectures nationally and internationally on the role of civic engagement in city planning.

Visit www.fow.org for more information and to register.

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**FOW Sponsors Schuylkill Acts & Impacts**

FOW sponsored Tahmid Bhuiyan, a Junior at Science Leadership Academy, as a participant in the Schuylkill Acts and Impacts Expedition this summer. The expedition is a weeklong service-learning program with a team of ten high-school students from communities within the Schuylkill River Watershed. It included a journey (by boat and van) along the 120-mile Schuylkill River, from its headwaters in Schuylkill County to its confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia. Team leaders from Outward Bound Philadelphia and the Schuylkill Headwaters Association guided the students downriver, illustrating an array of issues impacting water quality in the river through tours, programming, and applied service work designed to highlight issues in the watershed and offer hands-on solutions to these problems.

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**FOW Celebrates Seventh Ice Cream Social**

Northwest neighbors gathered on the lawn outside FOW’s office in Chestnut Hill on August 20 to learn more about the Wissahickon and enjoy free ice cream, environmental activities, and live steel drum music, courtesy of musicians Kyle Dunleavy and David Sherrick. This annual event also offers the chance for the community to meet with FOW’s staff and volunteers. Pictured here are Sylvie and Noura Meryman-Lotze, Sam Keefe, and Sage Bellot.

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**FOW Member Evening at the Woodmere**

Join FOW and the Woodmere Art Museum for a tour of the museum’s new exhibition featuring renowned landscape painter Walter Elmer Schofield (1866-1944) on Wednesday, November 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. *Schofield: International Impressionist* is the most ambitious and comprehensive exhibition of the artist’s work, and the first major critical reevaluation of his career. It includes over 60 paintings and recasts Schofield as an international artist who combined the tenets and stylistic qualities of both realism and impressionism. Schofield’s large scenes of the Wissahickon, the coasts of Cornwall, England, and other locales won numerous prestigious prizes and are in the collections of major institutions across the U.S. This tour is free and open only to current FOW members, who will be allowed to visit other exhibits during this event. The tour will begin at 6 p.m., with refreshments served before and after. Visit www.fow.org for more information and to register.

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**Support the Wayfinding and Signage Initiative**

FOW is currently raising funds from individuals and private foundations to provide the balance of matching funds needed for the Wayfinding and Signage Initiative. The project has an expected total budget of $500,000. A grant of $250,000 from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development has leveraged an additional $500,000 in private support, but FOW still needs $100,000 to complete the project. For more information on how you can support the Wayfinding and Signage program, contact Development Director Ruffian Tittmann at 215-247-0417 x102 or tittmann@fow.org.
Fall Colors to Enjoy

by Trish Fries,
Wissahickon
Environmental Center

Summer is over, and with the long, cold winter approaching it’s time to enjoy nature’s final burst of color seen in its autumn leaves. A highlight of autumn at the Tree House is the brilliant display of reds and oranges of the Japanese maple understory. The Andorra Natural area, though not especially “natural,” is unique in many ways because of its history as the Andorra Nurseries.

Tucked among aging European beech trees, you can still find the Japanese maple trees lined up in the rows of a nursery field. A look at the nursery catalog from 1940 shows four species of Japanese maples, including red and thread-leaf varieties. Just outside The Cedars House Café is a spectacular specimen, no doubt planted during the building’s life as the nursery headquarters. The reds, oranges, and pinks of the Japanese maples are made up of delicate leaves shaped like tiny, long-fingered hands.

Many introduced plants have been imported and cultivated to appeal to our love of fall color. Japanese maples and burning bush are now found throughout the forest, reproducing by seed. The leaves and twigs are not preferred food by deer, so their numbers quickly multiply, competing for nutrients and sunlight with native plants. Those beautiful plants, are now considered invasive in our forest. While the Wissahickon Valley is filled with both native and introduced plants, the native plants have adapted to the climate and wildlife that uses them. Plants that provide quality food for migrating birds have brilliant fall colors that coincide with the migration, assuring that the plant is spotted, its fruit eaten, and the seeds spread to other areas.

Hidden along the Green Trail above Bell’s Mill Road is a special remnant of the nursery that is noticeable not because of its fall color, but because of its smell. Walk past the area of Katsura trees (Cercidiphyllum japonicum) in the fall and you may think you are at a county fair—the smell of cotton candy is in the air. But no, the scent is coming from the yellow leaves of the Katsura tree. Children have been known to rub the leaves on their arms to have their own cotton candy perfume!

Take a walk in the next few weeks, or sit on the porch of The Cedars House, and take in one last burst of color before the grays and browns dominate the winter forest.

Trish Fries is an Environmental Education Program Specialist at the Wissahickon Environmental Center.
**KEEPING UP With the TRAIL AMBASSADORS**

**TA Making a Difference**

by Sarah Marley, Outreach Manager

New technology has enabled the Trail Ambassadors (TAs) to share their experiences in the park with the FOW staff faster than ever before. Through electronic field reports, they are able to share all the details of their park shifts as well as upload photos to their reports, which will often include GPS coordinates of any park damage they see while out on the trails.

In 2013, TAs recorded over 800 park user interactions, more than 3,000 hours of outreach and assistance to park users, and over 50 reports of fallen trees, graffiti, trash dumping, and damaged park infrastructure. Based on these reports, FOW has been able to schedule volunteer work days and staff time in the park more effectively as well as share any important information with the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation staff, leading to a safer, cleaner Wissahickon Valley Park for everyone to enjoy.

The TAs spend a great deal of their time in the Wissahickon educating park users about the rich history and ecology of the valley and providing a gentle reminder of the park rules to help ensure the safety of all who visit the park. On some of the more quiet days in the Wissahickon, the TAs will share the beauty of the park experience through their reports, such as: blue jays mimicking hawks; barn swallows Educating park users about the rich Wissahickon Valley Park for everyone to enjoy.

Walls are cancelled in heavy rain or icy conditions.

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 Walks may be on 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 over six are welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult.

**TRAIL AMBASSADOR WALKS**

Meanderings in the Wissahickon with Shelly Brick

Sunday, September 21 1 3 pm
Meet at Chestnut Hill and Sansomile Aves.

Sunday, October 26 1 2 pm
Meet at the Rev. Ave. entrance to the park.

Saturday, November 2 1 3 pm
Meet at the Kitchen’s Lane entrance to the park.

Enjoy our park and “talk story,” a Hawaiian tradition. Face will be set by the group.

**Moth Night in Andorra Natural Area with Kris Soffa**

Tuesday, September 23 1 8–10 pm
Meet at the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Learn about moths and the moth database registry. Discover how to best observe moths in your garden, construct a simple moth trap, and set up UV light lures. Bring flashlight & camera. Be prepared to quickly identify the species on the tables and woods in the dark. Children 10+ welcome with responsible adult.

**Orange Trail Hike with Merritt Rhoad**

Sunday, October 19 1 3–3:30 pm
Meet at Northwestern Ave. & Forbidden Drive. We will hike along a short distance downstream from Rittenhouse Town. See two historical sites connected to the Revolutionary War era and more. We will discuss the history of the Wissahickon Turnpike, Forbidden Drive, and the Walnut Lane Bridge. Distance: 1 mile along lower Forbidden Drive on level ground as far as Walnut Lane Bridge.

**Geology Hike with Sarah West**

Saturday, October 18 1 3–4:45 pm
Meet at Valley Green Inn. Hike covers about 1.5 miles along a rough, steep trail on the east side of the creek, upstream from Valley Green. We will discuss the likely formation of Wissahickon rocks as the result of plate tectonics and identify several different types. Children 10+ welcome with responsible adult.

**Kid Friendly Hike with Marv Schwartz**

Saturday, November 1 1 3 pm
Meet at Cedars House. We will hike along the Creek from Northwestern Ave. to the Covered Bridge and return. Bring your own hearty picnic. Wear appropriate weather gear. Distance: 3.5 miles. Level: rocky trails, but mostly flat.

**Lower Forbidden Drive with Sarah West**

Saturday, November 15 1 3–4:45 pm
Meet at the small parking lot where Forbidden Drive meets Lincoln Drive, a short distance downstream from Rittenhouse Town. See two historical sites connected to the Revolutionary War era and more. We will discuss the history of the Wissahickon Turnpike, Forbidden Drive, and the Walnut Lane Bridge. Distance: 1 mile along lower Forbidden Drive on level ground as far as Walnut Lane Bridge.

**Find more information on TA Walks at www.fow.org/calendar**

**TA Walks with Woodmere Fall Festival (open to the public)**

**Understanding the Wissahickon with Merrill Rhoad**

Saturday, September 27 1 10 am–1 pm
Meet at Northwestern Ave. & Forbidden Drive. We will hike Forbidden Drive, then upper trails to the Indian Statue, finishing at Northwestern Ave. We will discuss geology, geography, history, and water issues, and see waterfalls, gams, and two popular subjects of paintings and photography. Distance: 3 miles. Level: moderate.

**Art and History in the Wissahickon with Diane Garvey and Mayy Dominici**

Sunday, October 12 1 10 am–1 pm
Meet at Valley Green Inn. Learn what art tells us about people, culture, and history in the Wissahickon from old photos and artwork. We will hike along the Orange Trail to Kitchen’s Lane, up to the Monastery Stable and Mansion, and return along the White Trail and Forbidden Drive. Dogs on leash welcome. Distance: 4.5 miles, over some steep and rocky terrain.

**A Walk along the Wissahickon Creek with Bruce Wagner & Maureen Flanagan**

Sunday, October 19 1 10 am-noon
Meet at Cedars House. We will walk from Cedars House to the Covered Bridge, with stops to examine various locations for their artistic potential. We will look for the sites of Walter Schofield’s paintings using prints of his work and contemporary photographs. Distance: 3.5 miles. Level: moderate with some rocks.

**Trail Ambassadors 2013 - By the Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports of fallen trees, graffiti, trash dumping, and damaged park infrastructure</td>
<td>50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park user interactions</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of outreach and assistance to park users</td>
<td>3,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Friends of the Wissahickon • Fall 2014
FOW Project Update
by Henry Stroud, Project Manager

Orange Trail Restoration–
Kitchen’s Lane to Mt. Airy Avenue

Beginning in March, FOW began restoring the Orange Trail between Kitchen’s Lane and Mt. Airy Avenue. One of my favorite sections of trail in the park, it is a hiker-only segment that offers gorgeous views of the creek, varied terrain, and shade on hot days. Also a favorite of fishermen and those looking for quiet and solitude, it is one of the park’s hidden gems.

Overall, the trail segment was in pretty good shape. It runs mostly along the contour of the slope and the signs of erosion we see on steeper trails were mostly absent. Yet, many sections of the trail were becoming heavily braided and some minor erosion was evident in areas where the trail had wandered off its original course or downed trees had damaged the trail tread. Trail braiding occurs when trail conditions cause people to leave the original trail. Fallen trees or sections of trail that are muddy or hold water are the usual culprits. Eventually, these new routes become established and the trail becomes a network of braids. If not taken care of, braided trails typically continue to get wider and damage the surrounding habitat.

Work mostly consisted of closing the braided sections and building stone walls and steps at strategic locations. Due to large rock outcroppings that make moving equipment to the trail difficult, we did all of the work by hand. Fortunately there was enough native rock around for us to use. The good thing about doing trail work in Pennsylvania is that rock is never in short supply. This fall we will be installing native plants along the trail and in the numerous braided sections that we closed.

**PROJECT AT A GLANCE:**

- **Total # of volunteers:** 93
- **Volunteer Hours:** 391
- **3,569 Feet of Trail Restored**
- **425 Feet of Trail Closed**
- **Bee Stings:** 3

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Partners in Water Quality:

WVWA Upstream Protection Efforts

by Stephanie Figary,
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

A watershed is an area of land that drains surrounding streams and tributaries to a single larger body of water. The sixty-four-square-mile Wissahickon Valley Watershed, which originates at the Montgomery Mall parking lot, drains into the Wissahickon Creek, which in turn supplies ten percent of Philadelphia’s drinking water as it flows into the Schuylkill River. So everything that happens in this watershed has an impact on the water in the Schuylkill.

Improving water quality of the Wissahickon Creek involves protecting the land in the watershed, particularly the land that borders the stream. The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA), headquartered in Montgomery County, protects over 1,200 acres of open space including land along the Wissahickon Creek. This land, known as a “buffer strip,” is a protective strip of vegetated land along the creek. It is vital for improving water quality because the plants in the buffer strip act as a filter and reduce the amount of undesirable nutrients and toxins entering the creek.

The WVWA also works to improve the water quality and habitat of the Wissahickon Creek through a Stream Monitoring and Assessment Program (Stream MAP). The Stream MAP is a continuous monitoring program that was developed in 2004 for monitoring the water quality, aquatic insect communities, and stream habitat in the Wissahickon Creek. In 2014 the WVWA expanded the Stream MAP by launching the Creek Watch Program, a group of trained citizen scientists that monitor an assigned section of the creek and report the findings to the WVWA. This combined monitoring effort allows the WVWA to identify the areas that are in need of ecological restoration and to determine the changes in the creek over time.

The WVWA also works with the community to promote activities that improve water quality, including planting meadows, developing vegetated buffer strips, and hosting rain garden and rain barrel workshops. All of these steps help us move closer to an improved Wissahickon Creek, Fairmount Park, and eventually Schuylkill River.

Stephanie Figary is Water Quality Project Manager at the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Mosquitoes in the Wissahickon

by Dena Sher, Associate Editor

Summer in and around the Wissahickon means mosquitoes. But these insects are more than just annoying; they are potentially a health hazard, transmitting the West Nile Virus (WNV) which can cause mosquito borne fevers in humans and parasites responsible for heart worm in dogs and cats.

WNV is transmitted to humans primarily through the bites of infected mosquitoes, and less frequently through the transmission of infected blood products or solid organ transplantation. Originally discovered in Uganda in 1937, it was not considered an important health threat until it was associated with epidemics of fever and encephalitis in the Middle East in the 1950s. WNV was first detected in continental America in New York state in 1999, appeared in Pennsylvania in 2000, and is now found in all 48 contiguous states in the U.S., where epidemics occurred in 2003 and 2012.

Most cases of WNV infections are without symptoms, but some persons experience an acute febrile illness that resembles flu. Less than 1% of infections progress to the more serious conditions of meningitis, encephalitis, or flaccid paralysis.

Control of Mosquitoes by Public Health Agencies

Control of the WNV infected mosquito population requires regular monitoring and elimination of mosquitoes in both the larval and adult stages. Elimination of mosquitoes in the larval stage focuses on removing stagnant water, weeds, and tall grass where mosquitoes breed. Pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for larval mosquito control are applied to the sources. Pesticides registered by the EPA are also used for control of adult mosquitoes. They are applied in a very small volume per acre by hand-held and truck-based devices, or aircraft. Properly applied, the insecticides are unlikely to contaminate groundwater, are practically non-toxic to birds, and do not negatively affect human health.

Serious adverse effects are rare in humans. Minor eye and skin irritation as well as breathing problems or asthma events have rarely been reported with the spraying of the usual insecticides which are organophosphates or pyrethroids. However, d-phenothrin, which has been used in Philadelphia, is highly toxic to honey bees, fish, and other aquatic animals, and is harmful to humans if absorbed through the skin. The signs and symptoms of acute exposure in concentrated amounts include eye irritation, which clears within 48 hours, and skin irritation with a burning or pricking sensation. It is also harmful if swallowed or aspirated into the respiratory system where it may cause mild to severe lung injury.

WATERSHED WATCH

How to reduce your exposure to WNV infected mosquitoes

• Avoid outdoor exposure at dawn and dusk from April to October.
• Wear shoes, socks, long sleeves, and pants during dawn and dusk.
• Apply insect repellent to skin and clothing.
• Wash all treated clothing when returning home.

The Center for Disease Control recommends repellents with active ingredients registered by the EPA for use on skin and clothing:
• DEET (products containing 10% to 50% are sufficient and can be reapplied)
• Picardin (KBR 3025)
• Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (not tested by EPA) or PMD

Published data indicate that repellent efficacy and duration of protection vary a great deal among products and mosquito species. They are affected by ambient temperature, amount of perspiration, exposure to water, and other factors. Repellents are not recommended for use on children under two years old.

Sources:

FOW makes every effort to monitor municipal mosquito spraying activities in Wissahickon Valley Park.

Friends of the Wissahickon • Fall 2014
As FOW prepares to celebrate its 90th Anniversary with the gala “Cabinet of Curiosities” at Valley Green Inn, there is little curiosity about how the Inn has survived and flourished for 162 years: FOW has been the steward of Valley Green Inn since 1934. Under the auspices of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, the Friends are responsible for overseeing the physical condition of the Inn’s structure and its immediate surroundings.

It is fitting that FOW celebrate its 90th Anniversary at the Inn—no other spot in the Wissahickon is as well known or loved as Valley Green. FOW will showcase improvements it has been making to the Inn throughout the past year at the 90th Anniversary Celebration Gala on October 25. “This is a very exciting time for FOW,” says Executive Director Maura McCarthy. “This will be the second time FOW has made improvements to the Inn to enhance its historic ambiance and beauty, but the one in which we have been the most engaged.”

Under the supervision of local designers Ann Kelly, Jane Good, and Rebecca Paul, who have generously donated their skills to the project, the Inn will benefit from some key new design elements, including: new tile floors in the back hallway bar; plaster repairs, painting, new chairs, and refinished wood floors in the main dining rooms and foyer; new lighting and light fixtures throughout; and renovation of the bathrooms. Kelly and Paul, along with FOW, are also leading the effort to catalogue the artwork in the Inn, restore those works of art in need of attention, and add some new items to the decor.

These interior design improvements are in addition to major repairs and improvements recently made to help prevent water damage such as occurred during previous storms. These improvements include: a backflow preventer, sump pumps in the basement, and new generator. “The generator is very important,” says FOW Development Director Ruffian Tittmann. “It will allow the Inn to continue to operate during extreme weather events or if a tree comes down on power lines.”

Others are also contributing to the improvement of Valley Green Inn. Restaurant Proprietor Jack Ott has financed the repainting of the building’s exterior and masonry repairs to the porch steps. The Fairmount Park Historic Trust is restoring the windows in the dining rooms, installing new shingles to the archway of the old rose garden formally on the left side of the Inn, and repainting this small structure. Among the local talent donating their services to the project are John Duffy of Stable Tables and Amie Cafiero of Cafiero Lighting Design.

A Short History
Contrary to a popular myth, General George Washington never slept at the Valley Green Inn, but many other people did. In the nineteenth century, the Inn, now only a restaurant, was one of a number of roadhouses in the Wissahickon accommodating overnight guests.

The present building dates from 1852. An earlier structure, destroyed by fire, was erected on the site by Edward Rinker. Records reveal that in 1850, Rinker obtained a lease from Thomas Livezey on three acres upstream from Livezey Hall. He was given permission by Livezey to build a small temperance hotel there and offer boats for hire in the nearby creek.
A toll road paralleling the creek, the Wissahickon Turnpike, was under construction at the time Valley Green Inn opened its doors. Subscribed to mainly by mill owners, it did not go as far as the Inn for several years. Meanwhile, patrons traveled to the Inn on Wise's Mill Road, about a quarter of a mile north.

In 1868, the Fairmount Park Commission of Philadelphia acquired the land that is now Wissahickon Valley Park. Alcohol use was not permitted on city park land, a regulation that drove most of the Wissahickon inns out of business.

Valley Green Inn survived because it always had been a temperance establishment. Its patrons ate the popular dish at the time—catfish and waffles—without the pleasure of washing it down with a beer or other spirit.

By the late 1890s, the Inn was badly in need of repairs. The Fairmount Park Commission of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation was about to tear it down when community leader Charles W. Henry formed a committee to raise funds; the grand sum of $1,221.59 saved the Inn from destruction in 1901.

The same year, a committee of women chaired by Lydia T. Morris of Morris Arboretum fame received permission from the Commission to manage Valley Green Inn solely as a restaurant. The sign hanging outside the Inn today depicts ladies sipping tea and dates from the period of management by the women's committee, which actually continued for many years.

**FOW Stewardship of the Inn**

The Friends of the Wissahickon entered the scene in the 1930s when major repairs, including a new roof, were again needed. They raised the funds and, in response, the City of Philadelphia handed over responsibility for the Inn to FOW by way of a sublease. The Friends, replaced, two new bathrooms were added, and, opening to the patio, a small, but elegant dining room with a beautiful oak bar was constructed. All was accomplished by 2002 without altering the Inn's historic facade or interior.

FOW launched the Valley Green Environmental Restoration Program in 2003. Following a design by Andropogon Associates of Philadelphia, the three-phase project resulted in a more attractive landscaped setting for the Inn with improved public access to the area and an increased capacity to mitigate flooding. It included: an expanded parking lot with new guard rails and gates; a new set of bluestone steps leading down to the water's edge; a rain garden of native plants; and additional native shrubs, grasses, and trees planted around the area. In 2007, the design was presented with the Stormwater Best Management Practices Recognition Program Award from the Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Philadelphia.

In 2011, FOW's Structures Crew, led by Buzz Wemple and Mike Souders (1943-2012), rebuilt the Warming Shed, which burned down in the fall of 2010. While not part of the Inn itself, the Warming Shed is an integral part of the Valley Green area. This marked the fourth time FOW has restored this structure. In 1999, the Friends rebuilt the shed after it collapsed. Several years later, a fire burned two large holes in the shed, which FOW repaired. Soon after, a large hemlock tree fell on the building, requiring more repair work. New and improved plans were obtained in 2011 to ensure a better constructed shed.

In 2012, FOW concentrated on making repairs following the extensive damage to the Inn caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in August 2011. All major systems were affected, and floors, walls, and furnishings were inundated with water. FOW and Bigway, Inc., restored all major systems, replaced floors and furnishings, and repainted both dining rooms. In addition, FOW staff and volunteers extended the berm behind the Inn to afford more protection from stormwater run-off.

Some information for this article was taken from the writings of the late F. Markoe Rivinus (1925-2006), President of FOW from 1970 to 1991.

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**Photos courtesy of Chestnut Hill Historical Society**

See the improvements to Valley Green in FOW’s Winter Newsletter!


One Man's Trash

By Bradley Maule

While the summer went relatively easy on us in terms of humidity, those many nice days were sadly, and predictably, more than conducive to the destruction that inevitably falls onto—and into—Devil's Pool.

A number of people who've joined me on my trash hikes have commented specifically when near Devil's Pool, “Why aren't there more trash cans?” For starters, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and FOW don't have the resources to remove the bags regularly—to do so would require daily maintenance in the summer. More importantly, placing more trash cans only encourages further disposal of trash, when so many visitors to Devil's Pool already don't use the ones there, and everyone should be following “pack it in, pack it out” anyway.

As frustrating and disheartening as it is to see so beautiful a place frequently trashed, it has been fun and enlightening to participate in FOW's clean-ups at Devil's Pool. Even though up to a dozen people fill 25-30 bags with trash in one clean-up, care is taken to separate recyclables, accounting for roughly half of the mess removed. Likewise, at the end of One Man's Trash—in early 2015—I will recycle everything that can be recycled and donate usable clothes and items such as footballs and frisbees accumulated along the way.

In terms of the project's summer highlights, two things stand out: a toy soldier found on Memorial Day and a USA soccer ball found on the first day of the World Cup. Who knew that woodland litter could be so serendipitous? Otherwise, it was a pretty standard summer of trash: used diapers, beer bottles, blunt wrappers, Wawa bags, and water bottles—so many disposable water bottles. I'm looking forward to a lighter load in the fall.

Bradley Maule is the founder and editor of Philly Skyline and is a co-editor of HiddenCityPhila.org. He lives in Mt. Airy and is training to be an FOW Trail Ambassador. Visit phillyskyline.com/onenmanstrash to follow him as he collects litter in the Wissahickon throughout 2014. You can view the miscellaneous items, and follow the Wissahickon's litter in numbers, as well as photos and maps from every corner of the park.

A team of four FOW volunteers cleaned all of Devil's Pool, and a group from Ambler YMCA's summer camp, who was just passing through, lent them a hand in carrying it out to the road for removal.
FOW Cuts the Cake at Family Picnic

FOW hosted a Family Picnic on July 12 at Pachella Field to Celebrate our 90th Anniversary with neighbors and friends. A visit from the Philadelphia Phanatic and Engine 66 of the Philadelphia Fire Department got things rolling. Children were entertained with crafts and old-fashioned picnic games. Beer from Stone Brewing Company was enjoyed and music from the Bacchus Boys kept everyone’s spirits high. Picnic fare such as corn on the cob, potato salad, hot dogs, and chicken was served, as well as a 90th Anniversary cake donated by Bredenbeck’s Bakery in Chestnut Hill.

Valley Green Bank celebrates the

FRIENDS OF THE
WISSAHICKON’S
90th
ANNIVERSARY GALA

www.valleygreenbank.com
Mt Airy* | 215.242.3550
Chestnut Hill* | 215.242.1550
South Philadelphia | 215.462.2265
Radnor | 610.995.2265
Center City | 215.569.2265
*Hours: Weekdays 8 to 6 and Saturday 9 to 1

You count with us.
Kevin Groves

FOW was sad to learn of the death of one of our most beloved former employees earlier this year—Kevin Groves, Volunteer Coordinator from 2007 to 2012.

During those five years, Kevin grew FOW’s long-established monthly volunteer workday into the thriving, professional volunteer programs that the organization has today, quadrupling the volunteer hours and increasing the number of volunteers five-fold. He was responsible for the creation of the Trail Ambassador and Crew Leader programs, two amazingly successful volunteer initiatives. At the start of his tenure at FOW, Kevin said, “I want to build a community and connect volunteers to each other so they enjoy the work more and have a meaningful experience.” The programs and projects that began under his leadership grew so rapidly, that by the time he left for a job in Ecuador in 2012, FOW had to distribute Kevin’s responsibilities among three separate staff members.

Kevin was FOW’s first full-time, permanent Volunteer Coordinator. He held a B.A. in Anthropology from George Washington University and studied Spanish, in which he was fluent, at the Instituto Superior de Español in Quito, Ecuador. Before joining FOW’s staff, Kevin worked for the Cadmus Group, Inc., in Virginia, supporting two EPA programs: Energy Star and Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools. At the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho, he served as a Wilderness and Conservation Associate. He was also a volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Americorps VISTA. In Philadelphia, he worked for REI, Inc., and the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education.

Kevin was committed to his work in the Wissahickon, where he spent time as a child growing up in Springfield Township. “I’m working with people in the community,” he once said of his work with FOW, “and I’m spending time outdoors in a beautiful place doing work that matters and makes a difference. You can actually see what is being done—how things are changing from the work we do. I’m in a position where I can make a difference.”

Not only did Kevin want to make a difference, but he was gifted at encouraging others to do the same. He was an extremely good listener. Outreach Manager Sarah Marley says, “He knew when to hold back and not interfere and listen to volunteers. He was good about letting people voice their opinions and concerns.”

The secret of Kevin’s success as Volunteer Coordinator was that he cared deeply about both the environmental mission of FOW and about every single person he encountered. “With his beard, mud- or dust-splattered work boots, friendly smile, and welcoming demeanor, Kevin looked like the poster boy for environmental service work,” said FOW Executive Director Maura McCarthy, “and he was the real deal. People volunteered with FOW because of Kevin.”

According to FOW Board Member David Dannenberg, Kevin “had a special combination of enthusiasm, reserve, and action with a relaxed attitude that attracted so many people who, due to his direct influence, became stalwart supporters of the organization and developed a deeper love and respect for the park. In this way he lives on in the park as well as our hearts.

The people he cultivated still make contributions for the good of the Wissahickon and the people who use it. Those people will cultivate others who will cultivate others and so his influence will be felt in perpetuity. This is a good and fitting legacy for a man committed to ideals who left this world before his time.”

Kevin is survived by his mother, FOW Trail Ambassador Patricia McMenamin, father Robert Groves, step-mother LaVonne France, sisters Moira (Ryan) Schwartz and Siobhan Groves, and nieces Sophia and Julia. Contributions in Kevin’s name may be made to Friends of the Wissahickon. Visit www.fow.org to make a donation.

Planting Day in Honor of Kevin Groves
Saturday, October 4 • 10 am
Join FOW as we honor Kevin Groves with a living memorial and volunteer planting day in the Andorra Natural Area, where we will plant a grove of trees in his name. A reception will follow on the lawn behind the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Register at marley@fow.org. Meet at the Upper Parking Lot above the Wissahickon Environmental Center off of Northwestern Ave. ( Roxborough side).

Out of Darkness Walk
Sunday, October 5 • 9 am
Support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) with a fundraising walk beginning in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Registration opens at 7am. Team Special K has been formed in honor of Kevin Groves. “Special K” was one of Kevin’s nicknames in high school. To join, visit http://www.afsp.org/out-of-the-darkness-walks. Unable to join? Consider an online donation or mail a check (payable to AFSP) to: AFSP, 120 Wall Street, 29th Floor, New York, NY 10005. Write “Team Special K” in the memo line of all checks.

Thanks to Our Outgoing Board Members

Chris Bentley, a consultant in social media applications, joined FOW’s Board of Directors in 2007. He has served on numerous committees: Chestnut Hill Historical Society/FOW Joint Easement; Executive, Valley Green Inn Oversight; and Development, which he chaired. “Chris has been instrumental in the refurbishment of Valley Green Inn through his work on FOW’s 90th Anniversary Gala and the Valley Green Inn Oversight Committee,” says FOW Executive Director Maura McCarthy. “He’s been the critical link between those two groups.” Bentley will continue to co-Chair the 90th Anniversary Gala which will be held at Valley Green Inn on October 25.

A member of FOW’s Board since 2007, Daphne Fifield is an Environmental Consultant who has worked on the planning committee for Whispers Along the Wissahickon and other events, while assisting with membership and development issues. She was co-chair of the Conservation Committee (which she will continue to do) and served on the Joint Water Resources Committee and the Development and Executive Committees. She has also been a member of the Working Groups for Redevelopment of the Wissahickon Valley Map and the FOW Website. Says McCarthy: “Daphne has helped to invigorate FOW’s multi-year planning for the future stewardship of the Valley, focusing on issues such as forestry and understory habitat.”

Liz Pearson, who runs her own recruiting business, joined FOW’s Board of Directors in 2009. From the start, she was heavily involved in the organizing of FOW’s outreach events and served as a Co-Chair of Whispers Along the Wissahickon and as a member of the planning committee for the 85th Anniversary Gala. She was also a member of FOW’s Governance and Development Committees. “Liz has been an invaluable Board member,” says McCarthy, “especially in our event planning. With Whispers, she helped us focus on making that event engaging for families. She also provided unique insight serving on the Governance Committee. Her professional background and acumen were greatly appreciated.”

After joining FOW’s Board in 2005, John Rollins, Executive Vice-President at Accolade, Inc., served on the Joint Water Resources Committee, the Advocacy Committee’s Working Group for Safety, and the Governance and Budget and Finance Committees. He steered FOW through two strategic planning periods and chaired those working groups. For the past three years he served as President during one of the most successful periods in FOW’s history. According to McCarthy, Rollins sharpened the focus of FOW and professionalized the Board’s operations, with term limits and the creation of a Board manual. “John was president when FOW needed to look forward,” says former president Cindy Affleck, “His business expertise and talent for strategic thinking and organization was much needed.”
OW members did more than just review the past year at their Annual Meeting on June 3 at Valley Green Inn. This year being the 90th Anniversary of the organization, President John Rollins presented the many ways FOW is different than it was 90, 19, and 9 years ago. He highlighted decades of challenges that included canopy loss, chestnut tree blight, the mountain bike debate, and developing the Sustainable Trails Initiative, while noting the growth of professionalism at FOW over the years. Rollins, who is stepping down from FOW’s Board of Directors, also paid tribute to Board members Christopher Bentley, Daphne Lynch Fifield, and Liz Pearson who are also retiring this year.

Executive Director Maura McCarthy presented her report to the membership, leading with an appreciation for FOW’s 800 volunteers and numerous partners, including the Philadelphia Water Department and Parks & Recreation (PPR). She noted that these relationships have allowed FOW to bring its capital work in the park to a new level. Over the last year, FOW has rebuilt trails in Andorra, closed water-bearing and eroding trails and opened new sustainable trails near Kitchen’s Lane, completed a park-wide wayfinding and signage plan, and restored the tributary channel and repaired the parking lot on Valley Green Road. Non-capital work included developing online resources and strategic watershed policy, creating emergency access plans, generating a marketing plan for FOW, advocating for park land protection and budget support for PPR, and developing a habitat and forestry management plan for the Valley.

Treasurer Jeff Harbison reported that program spending increased 56% from $703K to $1,094K, after a backlog of projects in 2012. Notwithstanding the 56% increase in project work, FOW’s supporting services decreased by 3%. Total net assets was down slightly from $1,749K to $1,677K, or about 4%, indicating that FOW is deploying assets toward its mission. Unrestricted net assets increased during this time from $694K to $742K, a good indicator of the overall financial health of a nonprofit. Grants and contributions were up about 21% in 2013, which included a $100K bequest late in the year.

New FOW President Will Whetzel introduced three new members to the Board of Directors, who were voted on by the membership: Chris Raab, an adjunct professor at Temple University’s Fox School of Business and an affiliated faculty member of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute; Jean Sachs, Chief Executive Officer of Living Beyond Breast Cancer; and Patricia R. West, a Master of Environmental Studies candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. Standing for re-election to the Board were Christine Bamberger, David Dannenberg, Christopher McCausland, Jeff Harbison, Stephanie Craighead, Louise Johnston, Courtney Kapp, and Charles Lee.
Eroded section of White Trail closed

This marks the third corporate workday that FOW has hosted for Philadelphia Insurance Companies. Twenty-six volunteers closed a severely eroded section of the White Trail that meets the Mt. Airy access road. They built seven large check dams into the steep trail, roughed up the remaining sections of trail to promote new plant growth, and re-naturalized the area with smaller logs and organic material. Special thanks to Theodora Valero of PIC for organizing the workday.

Five Interns worked over 400 hours for FOW

A special thanks to five interns that have really stood out and done a fantastic job this summer: Zeke Zeff from Barack Hebrew Academy, a great worker with over 60 hours of volunteer work; Larry Wargo and Will Elliot from Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, who worked over 280 hours and installed one great duck box; Max Weber of J.R. Masterman High School, who donated 60 hours of refined work and literary conversation; and Hejin Burris Lee, who is still with us. Give this man an hour-long task, and 20 minutes later he is asking what to do next.

SCA Crew kept Devil’s Pool clean and more

This summer, the Crew from the Student Conservation Association undertook many different tasks in the park. As the five-week summer caretakers of Devil’s Pool, they effectively kept the debris at bay, removing over 100 bags of recycling and trash. They also maintained almost three miles of overgrown trail, constructed several much-needed rock features along a small section of trail, and even found time to lend a hand to Courtesy Stable, the Philadelphia Water Department, and the Lavender Trail System. Always a pleasure to work with them.

Structures Crew worked over 200 hours in the park

FOW’s Structures Crew accomplished a lot this summer. They installed a new railing for the steps off Emlen Street leading to the Cresheim Trail, built and installed bird, duck, and bat boxes at various locations in the park, repaired benches along Forbidden Drive, built a new shed for PPR’s District 4 headquarters, and replaced doors on the WPA building at the Covered Bridge. They also constructed a new menu sign for the Valley Green Inn, to be installed soon. More on that in the next issue!

Exchange student from Austria led invasive removal

Maria Weiss, an exchange student from Vienna, Austria, attending Upper Dublin High School, mobilized her Environmental Science class of 30 fellow students to assist FOW with the removal of Devil’s walking stick around the perimeter of the meadow at Blue Bell Hill. The students cleared about 1,200 square feet of the invasive. Maria hopes to inspire others to do the same when she returns to Austria.

25 bags of litter removed from Devil’s Pool

I doubted we would have space for the 50 Penn Distributor volunteers who showed up on June 1 to clean up Devil’s Pool, much less the extra food they brought. But the group removed 17 bags of trash and eight bags of recycling from the immediate area and both trails in and out of Devil’s Pool. New Belgium Brewery was on hand to help with the clean-up, as this event commemorated their new relationship with Penn Distributors.

Orange Trail greatly improved on National Trails Day

National Trails Day embodies so much of what FOW does and underscores the passion we feel for our work. We have a solid group of volunteers that regularly work with us, and they came out on June 7 to work along the Orange Trail. We completed two rock retaining walls, closed some sections of braided trail, and finished the day talking and laughing while we enjoyed tomato pies donated from T&F Farmers Pride. (Learn about braided trails on p. 6.)
A Letter to the Wissahickon

FOW bid farewell to our much-loved Volunteer Coordinator Eric Falk in August, when he moved back to Colorado with his family to pursue new challenges in conservation. Below is his farewell note to the park and us.

Dear Wissahickon,

I am writing to you regarding the impact that you have on the community that surrounds you, and the species that reside within it. We are a fickle group, soft of skin and attracted to convenience, but that is neither here nor there; the big picture is that you have had a grand influence on how people interact in your vicinity.

You have great trees, dense foliage, and a bevy of small animals, birds, and insects to provide a mystical sound track. You have trails and rocks, water that flows, and expansive meadows to get lost in. You provide sanctuary inside a tenacious landscape, a pleasant escape from the noise and grit, a place where one may disappear deep into the gorge created by the water and revel at the mist while basking in the cool air.

More importantly, you have a small army of support from the very same species that you impact in such a profound way. All of your majesty seems to bring out the best in this abundant group. Take care of them, as they will take care of you.

From the one who will always walk among you,

The Rogue Element

FOW bid farewell to our much-loved Volunteer Coordinator Eric Falk in August, when he moved back to Colorado with his family to pursue new challenges in conservation. Below is his farewell note to the park and us.

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From the one who will always walk among you,

The Rogue Element

Friends of the Wissahickon • Fall 2014

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 Walks may be on rocky, rugged trails that may be wet and slippery. Wear sturdy shoes or boots with laces. Long pants are recommended for protection against occasional poison ivy and possible ticks. Bring water and a snack if desired. Unless otherwise noted, children over six 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.

Welcome Fall by Exploring Woods and Meadows with Kimberly Quinn

Sunday, September 28 | 10 am–12:30 pm
Meet at Cedars House. Welcome fall with a hike to the Andorra Natural Area behind Cedars House and the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Bring binoculars, cameras, & water! Children 8+ welcome with responsible adult. Distance: 3 miles. Level: moderate.

Creepy Crawlies with Barbara Berman

Sunday, September 21 | 1–3 pm
Meet at the Wissahickon Environmental Center upper parking lot, reached from Northwestern Ave. off Ridge Pike. Do you love bugs or get grossed out by them? This is a family event, but best for kids 4+. Level: moderate terrain.

Meadowlarks in the Wissahickon with Shelly Brick

Sunday, September 21 | 1–3 pm
Meet at Cedars House and Seminole Aves. Sunday, October 26 | 2 pm Meet at the Rev Ave. entrance to the park.
Sunday, November 23 | 1 pm Meet at the Kitchen’s Lane entrance to the park.
Enjoy our park and “talk story,” a Hawaiian tradition. Faces will be set by the group.

Moth Night in Andorra Natural Area with Kris Soffa

Tuesday, September 23 | 8–10 pm
Meet at the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Bring flashlight & camera. Be prepared to walk quietly on the trails and woods in the dark.
Children 10+ welcome with responsible adult.

Orange Trail Hike with Merritt Rhoad

Sunday, October 29 | 9–11:30 am
Meet at Northwestern Ave. & Forbidden Drive. Level: moderate difficulty. Distance: 4 miles.

Trail Ambassador Walks From the Back of a Horse with Cynthia Turecki & Camille Blanché

Sunday, October 5 | 11 am–1:30 pm
Meet at the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Bring binoculars, cameras & water. Children 8+ welcome with responsible adult.

Geology Hike with Sarah West

Saturday, October 18 | 3–4:45 pm
Meet at Valley Green Inn. This hike covers about 1.5 miles along a rough, steep trail on the east side of the creek, upstream from Valley Green. Children 13+ welcome with responsible adult.

Kid Friendly Hike with Marv Schwartz

Saturday, November 1 | 1–3 pm
Meet at Valley Green Inn. Level: moderate on some rocky trails.

Autumn Picnic with Bruce Wagner & Maureen Flanagan

Saturday, November 8 | 11 am–1:30 pm
Meet at Cedars House. Bring your own hearty picnic. Wear appropriate weather gear. Distance: 3.5 miles. Level: rocky trails, but mostly flat.

Lower Forbidden Drive with Sarah West

Saturday, November 15 | 9–4:45 pm
Meet at the small parking lot, off Forbidden Drive meets Lincoln Drive, a short distance downstream from Rittenhouse Town. Distance: 1 mile along level Forbidden Drive on level ground as far as Walnut Lane Bridge.

A Walk along the Wissahickon Creek with Bruce Wagner and Maureen Flanagan

Sunday, October 19 | 10 am–noon
Meet at Cedars House. Distance: 3.5 miles. Level: moderate with some rocks.

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 5 AND AT WWW.FOW.ORG

Winter in the Wissahickon

December 6
Choose either 10 am-12:30 pm or 1 pm-3:30 pm
Valley Green Inn

Create your own wreath and enjoy roasted chestnuts, hot apple cider, and a light lunch buffet at Valley Green Inn. Tickets: $30 for adults, $10 for children. Family package (2 adults, 2 children, one wreath) for $75. Price includes one wreath per ticket and all food and beverages. For more information, contact Sarah Marley at marley@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x109.

Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter

www.amcdv.org

Mondays — Wissahickon Gorge Wandering: Brisk paced hike. Distance is dependent on the conditions and speed of the group. Meet at 6:45 pm by Valley Green Inn. Bring water and a flashlight. Bad weather cancels. If doubtful, please check the status of the hike before 5:30 pm at www.amcdv.org/Calendar/ or contact the Leader. Leaders: Christina Lawless (215-530-3983) or trailawhise@yahoo.com; Mike Lawless (215-836-2275); David Stein (215-508-5915 or dstein0857@yahoo.com). Sept. 15-Oct. 22

Tuesdays — Tuesday Nights in the Wissahickon: Casual social hike through hills of Wissahickon Gorge. Bring water and a flashlight or headlamp. Always an option for dinner following the hike. Meet at Bruni’s, at the corner of Germantown and Northwestern Aves., at 6:30 pm. Nasty weather will cancel. Leaders: David Stein (215-499-9803 before 9 pm or dstein0857@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com). Sept. 15-Oct. 22

Wednesdays — Wissahickon Wednesdays: Casual social hike through hills of Wissahickon Gorge. Bring water and a flashlight or headlamp. Always an option for dinner following the hike. Meet at Bruni’s, at the corner of Germantown and Northwestern Aves., at 6:30 pm. Nasty weather will cancel. Leaders: David Stein (215-499-9803 before 9 pm or dstein0857@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com); Pat Naismith (610-639-3670 before 9 pm or hikerstap067@yahoo.com). Sept. 15-Oct. 22

Philaventures www.philaventures.org

Last Sunday of Month — Wissahickon Hike: An opportunity to walk at a moderate pace with a talkative group of LGBT folks who like fresh air and exercise! Some ups and downs and uneven paths are found along the way, so wear proper footwear and be ready to hike. This groups meets at 2pm at Cosimo’s Pizza, 8624 Germantown Ave. at Bethlehem Pike (the top of Chestnut Hill). RSVPs are required to the hike leader, Andy B. at ABK121@hotmail.com.
WISSEYAKON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
The Tree House is Open the 3rd Saturday of Every Month, 10am to 4pm. Call 215-685-5828 or email WECD@PHI.edu to register for events. Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.
FULL MOON HIKE
Friday, September 19 7:30-9pm
Hunt for animal signs, listen for nighttime sounds, and enjoy marshmallows around a campfire. This hike is geared for families and is appropriate for children 8–15 years old. FREE
For a listing of more events at WEC, visit http://www.fow.org/calendar.

WISSEYAKON VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WWA offers many public programs as part of its mission to protect the quality and beauty of the Wissahickon Creek and to enhance life in the Wissahickon Watershed. Located at 12 Morris Road in Ambler. More events and info at www.wwa.org.

EVANS-MUMBOWER MILL FESTIVAL
Wissahickon Excursion to Pine Barrens
Sunday, September 21
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE
Saturday, September 27
GREEN RIBBON GALA AT ERDENHEIM FARM
Sunday, October 5
SITON THE FENCE
Saturday, October 12
GREEN RIBBON TRAIL RACE
Saturday, November 1
EVANS-MUMBOWER OPEN HOUSE & TRAIL WALK
Sunday, November 9

For a listing of more events this fall, visit
http://www.fow.org/calendar.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

— Friends of the Wissahickon Membership Form —

q YES, I/We want to help preserve and protect the Wissahickon.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

q $20 Limited Income/Students
q $45 Basic
q $75 Family
q $100 Contributing*
q $250 Sponsor*
q $500 Patron*
q Society of Generous Friends*
q $1000
q $2500
q $5000
q $10,000 or above

*Choice of:
q Hat
q T-Shirt (circle size)
q Please keep the premium and use the entire membership fee for the Park.

Name_________________________________________________________
Street_________________________________________________________________________________________
City________________________State__________Zip Code_____________________________
Phone (Home)_______________________Work________________________E-mail_____________________________
I also want to help the Friends of the Wissahickon with:
q Membership
q Community Outreach
q Trail Repair
q Clean-Up
q Wildlife
q Fundraising
q Reforestation
q Structures Repair
q Education
q Vine Removal

Method of Payment
q Check Enclosed (payable to the Friends of the Wissahickon)
q Charge my
q VISA  q MASTERCARD  q AMEX  q DISCOVER

Card Number_________________________Expiration Date_________________________
Signature_________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________
Name ___________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip Code ____________
Phone (Home) ____________________ Work _______ E-mail____________________________

HISTORIC RITENHOUSETOWN
Historic Rittenhousetown offers classes, workshops, and events for individuals and families to learn about the craft of hand papermaking and other aspects of Colonial life at the original Rittenhouse Family Homestead. Located on Lincoln Drive at Andorra Avenue, one mile from Valley Green Inn. For updates and more information visit www.fow.org/historicrittenthalstown.org.

WISSEYAKON RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS
Meet at the Andorra Natural Area (WRV) lead a service project from 10 am–12 pm as part of their on-going reforestation activities. Project details and directions to the worksite will be posted on the WRV website at least one week prior to the event. www.wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.org. For info. and to RSVP, contact WRV at 215-951-0330, ext. 2101 or wrv.info@rhd.org.

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Friends of Cresheim Trail conduct ongoing workdays in order to enhance the evolving trail system in the Cresheim Creek area. Meet at the entrance at Lincoln Drive and Adams Lane at 10 am. Participants should wear long pants, long sleeves, sturdy shoes. Please bring your own tools. Garbage bags, work gloves, and refreshments will be provided. Coffee and snacks served. Contact: info@cresheimtrail.org or 215-715-9159.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
EVERY SATURDAY
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) offers many public programs as part of its mission to protect the quality and beauty of the Wissahickon Creek and to enhance life in the Wissahickon Watershed. Located at 12 Morris Road in Ambler. More events and info at www.wwa.org.

EVANS-MUMBOWER MILL FESTIVAL
Wissahickon Excursion to Pine Barrens
Sunday, September 21
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE
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Sunday, November 9

For a listing of more events this fall, visit
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q Society of Generous Friends*
q $1000
q $2500
q $5000
q $10,000 or above

*Choice of:
q Hat
q T-Shirt (circle size)
q Please keep the premium and use the entire membership fee for the Park.

Name_________________________________________________________
Street_________________________________________________________________________________________
City________________________State__________Zip Code_____________________________
Phone (Home)_______________________Work________________________E-mail____________________________
I also want to help the Friends of the Wissahickon with:
q Membership
q Community Outreach
q Trail Repair
q Clean-Up
q Wildlife
q Fundraising
q Reforestation
q Structures Repair
q Education
q Vine Removal

Method of Payment
q Check Enclosed (payable to the Friends of the Wissahickon)
q Charge my
q VISA  q MASTERCARD  q AMEX  q DISCOVER

Card Number_________________________Expiration Date_________________________
Signature_________________________________________________________

Please return to: 8708 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118  •  tel 215-247-0417  •  office@fow.org  •  www.fow.org

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**
Friends of the Wissahickon. Erosion Control Workday. Meet at Valley Green parking lot on Horsham Drive. 9am to 1pm. For more info, and to register, contact Volunteer Coordinator John Holback at holback@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**
Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers (WRV) lead a service project from 10 am–12 pm as part of their on-going reforestation activities. Project details and directions to the worksite will be posted on the WRV website at least one week prior to the event: www.wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.org. For info, and to RSVP, contact WRV at 215-951-0330, ext. 2101 or wrv.info@rhd.org.

**EVERY TUESDAY**
Friends of the Wissahickon volunteers repair and build structures in the Wissahickon from 9am to 1pm. For more info, and to register, contact Volunteer Coordinator John Holback at holback@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**
Wissahickon Service Projects (September through May) 1pm to 3pm. Join Wissahickon Service Projects volunteers repair and build structures in the Wissahickon from 9am to 1pm. For more info, and to register, contact Volunteer Coordinator John Holback at holback@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

**HISTORIC RITENHOUSETOWN**
**Sunday September 28**

**EVERY SATURDAY**
Friends of the Wissahickon workdays in the park are held most Saturdays from 9am–10am, unless it is a holiday or there is inclement weather. Projects include trail maintenance, invasive weed removal, planting, and clean-ups. Visit www.wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.org for updates and info on future projects. To register, contact Volunteer Coordinator John Holback at holback@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
**SEPTEMBER 27: INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL**
Meet at WEC upper parking lot, accessed from Northwestern Ave.

**OCTOBER 11: PLANTING DAY – ORANGE TRAIL CLOSURE**
Meet at the Blue Bell Hill Picnic Pavilion

**OCTOBER 18: PLANTING DAY AT ANDORRA NATURAL AREA**
Meet at WEC upper parking lot, accessed from Northwestern Ave.

**FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**
Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers (WRV) lead a service project from 10 am–12 pm as part of their on-going reforestation activities. Project details and directions to the worksite will be posted on the WRV website at least one week prior to the event: www.wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.org. For info, and to RSVP, contact WRV at 215-951-0330, ext. 2101 or wrv.info@rhd.org.

**THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**
Friends of Cresheim Trail conducts ongoing workdays in order to enhance the evolving trail system in the Cresheim Creek area. Meet at the entrance at Morris Road in Ambler. More events and info. at www.wvwa.org.

**EVERY THURSDAY**
Wissahickon Wanderers Trail Run. 3-5 miles. Starts 6:30pm sharp at Valley Green Inn. For updates and more info visit www.wissahickonrunningclub.org.

**WISSAHICKON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**
The free House is Open the 2nd Saturday of every Month, 10am to 4pm. Call 215-685-0120 or email hmcodyssey.gov to register for events. Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

**FULL MOON HIKES**

- **Friday, September 19 7:30–9pm**
Hunt for animal signs, listen for nighttime sounds, and enjoy marshmallows around a campfire. This hike is geared for families and is appropriate for children 6+ years old. FREE.

**WISSAHICKON VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**
WVWA offers many public programs as part of its mission to protect the quality and beauty of the Wissahickon Creek and to enhance life in the Wissahickon Watershed. Located at 12 Month Rest in Ardmore. More events and info. at www.wvwa.org.

**EVANS-MUMBOWER MILL FESTIVAL**
Wissahickon Excursion to Pine Barrens Sunday, September 21

**WALK ON THE WILD SIDE**
Saturday, September 27

**GREEN RIBBON GALA AT EREDENKIRN FARM**
Sunday, October 5

**WISSAHICKON EXCURSION TO RAYMONDSKILL FALLS**
Saturday, October 18

**PUMPKIN DECORATING**
Sunday, October 19

**THE GHOST OF HENRY MUMBOWER**
Serve the Preserve Saturday, October 25

**GREEN RIBBON TRAIL RACE**
Saturday, November 1

**EVANS-MUMBOWER OPEN HOUSE & TRAIL WALK**
Sunday, November 9

For a listing of more events at WEC, visit http://www.fow.org/calendar.

**RUNNING CLUBS**

**EVERY THURSDAY**
Wissahickon Wanderers Trail Run. 3-5 miles. Starts 6:30pm sharp at Valley Green Inn. For updates and more info visit www.wissahickonrunningclub.org.

**EVERY SATURDAY**
Shawmont Running Club. Starts at Northwestern Ave. A run of 5 miles, north and east toward the Deep. From 2nd Saturday in March to Thanksgiving Day. Meet at the Deep 7:30am. From 1st Saturday in October thru 1st Saturday in May start at 8am. Distance are at the discretion of runners. All ages welcome. Emphasis is on fun! www.shawmontrunningclub.com.

**NEW PROGRAMS**

Wills Nature Center: US Route 1, Philadelphia PA. 8904 Wissahickon Valley PA.

**FRIENDS OF THE WISSAHICKON**

**ALL EVENTS AT VALLEY GREEN INN**

**90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GALA (P.4)**
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25**

**VALLEY TALKS (P.3)**
**SPONSORED BY VALLEY GREEN BANK**
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

**WINTER IN THE WISSAHICKON (P15)**
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN THE WISSAHICKON**

**Historic Rittenhousetown offers classes, workshops, and events for individuals and families to learn about the craft of hand papermaking and other aspects of colonial life at the original Rittenhouse Family Homestead. Located on Lincoln Drive at Rittenhouse Street. Info. at 215-438-5711, programs@rittenhousetown.org or www.rittenhousetown.org.**

**Rittenhousetown Reveil**
Sunday, September 28

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER**