Best in Show, FOW Photo Contest 2012
Photo by Bruce Wagner
A SPECIAL MESSAGE

from Maura McCarthy, Executive Director
John Rollins, President

Over the past several months, our Board of Directors has been soliciting feedback from our partners, FOW members, and the public through many venues as we shape our Strategic Plan for the next five years. We thank you for participating in focus groups, attending public and stakeholder meetings, and completing surveys on everything from signage to maps.

In the new Strategic Plan, FOW has renewed our commitment to the completion of the Sustainable Trails Initiative (STI). You will be pleased to know that, once STI is complete, core programming associated with it will continue: our vibrant, hands-on volunteer program; the popular Trail Ambassador program; safety initiatives; improved signage and wayfinding; and diligent trail maintenance.

As part of this commitment, we will look very critically at the outcomes associated with water quality and habitat health, and determine how to best develop a more systematic investment in these two areas. Frequent readers of our newsletter, which includes the section “Watershed Watch,” know that water quality and habitat already figure greatly in our work. In this issue, you can find information on our Annual Creek Clean Up on April 27, when we team up with the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association to clean the Wissahickon Creek from top to bottom (see page 5). We also report on the work of others in our community to improve the quality of the Wissahickon Creek, and are pleased to launch the first in an occasional series called “Partners in Water Quality.” (See page 6.)

We thank you for participating in focus groups, attending public and stakeholder meetings, and completing surveys on everything from signage to maps.

The cover of this issue of the newsletter features the Best in Show winner from our 2012 Photo Contest. Congratulations to Trail Ambassador Bruce Wagner! (You can see more Photo Contest winners beginning on page 8.) FOW has been conducting this competition since 1995, and it serves many purposes, such as providing us with a fine collection of Wissahickon photographs that we can use in FOW publications and on our website. Most importantly, it is one of the ways we celebrate the Wissahickon with our friends and neighbors and remember how special this urban wilderness is to all of us.

Love of the Wissahickon, public involvement, and support for our programs are key to the long-term health of the Wissahickon Valley and Creek. Together with the community, FOW is planning ahead to maintain the health of our waterway and canopy and thinking about how we can improve it. Your input, volunteer service, and financial support are essential in this effort. Thanks for being part of it!

Valley Talks
sponsored by Valley Green Bank

April 17 and May 15 • 6 pm • Valley Green Inn
Wine and cheese reception
More details at www.fow.org

Andy Hamilton of the East Coast Greenway Alliance discussed this revolutionary trail system and how it enhances local communities and the region at large. This Valley Talk on December 5 took place at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy.

Friends of the Wissahickon • Spring 2013

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.
**Preserving Our Gateway to the Wissahickon**

*Ever wonder what a conservation easement is or thought about putting one on your own property?* Here's an opportunity to have all your questions answered. FOW and the Chestnut Hill Historical Society present Conservation Attorney Pat Pregmon for a discussion on conservation tools to protect the Wissahickon Watershed, open space, and the natural environment of the Chestnut Hill area.

**Wednesday, March 27 at 6 pm**
Springside Chestnut Hill Academy
Wissahickon Room
500 Willow Grove Avenue
Light refreshments will be served before and after the talk.
Park in Science Building lot.

Patricia L. Pregmon has more than 25 years experience as an attorney, working specifically on conservation and real estate law. As one of the region's foremost authorities on historic preservation and conservation law, she has served on the boards of such groups as the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association. Pregmon has also written extensively about conservation law and is principal author of The Model Pennsylvania Conservation Easement and Commentary (2011), a key publication of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Avoid Muddy Trails in Wissahickon

It's Mud Season in Wissahickon Valley Park, and FOW is urging park users to refrain from biking, hiking, or horseback riding on muddy trails, particularly in meadow areas.

“Spring is the time of year when trails are most vulnerable to erosion and long-term damage,” says FOW Executive Director Maura McCarthy.

As frost thaws, it releases water. During this period, it is important to leave the soil undisturbed so it can mix with organic leaves and other organic matter and dry out naturally into trail dirt. If disturbed while muddy, the soil will be washed away leaving exposed rocks and roots.


**Preliminary Results Are In!**

**Goat Invasive Control Study**

*by Sarah Marley, Outreach Manager*

Botanists from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve found that humans were more effective than goats and herbicides at removing bamboo, after performing the final PSI (Plant Stewardship Index) for the Goat Invasive Control Study for 2012 in the fall. While the goats did eat some of the bamboo at the selected site in the Andorra Natural Area, they clearly had an appetite for the shorter, younger shoots. The botanists suggest that cutting the bamboo down and then introducing the goats may prove more effective at keeping the new shoots from growing larger. The herbicide treatment was not observed to have an effect on the bamboo. The report also suggests that with the increased sunlight, lesser celandine, an invasive plant, may increase in the areas where bamboo was removed. Yvonne Post, owner of the goat herd, noted in her account that, while the goats did enjoy bamboo and other invasive species in the area, park users following a popular route near the goats disrupted their eating habits. These findings will be taken into consideration next year when FOW decides on a new target species and location for the third year of the Goat Invasive Control Study.

**READ MORE:** Goats—[www.fow.org/news-events/meet-herd-goats-wissahickon](http://www.fow.org/news-events/meet-herd-goats-wissahickon)

**Central Park Botanical Tour**

Join the Friends of the Wissahickon on **Thursday, May 2, 2013,** for their second Botanical Walking Tour of New York's Central Park with Ned Barnard, FOW Trail Ambassador and author of *New York City Trees* (2002), and Ken Chaya, creator of *Central Park Entire: the Definitive Illustrated Folding Map* (2011). The tour will focus on the northern portion of the park, which is seldom visited by tourists and contains extravagant floral displays.

The guided tour will include: the Harlem Meer with its great old bald cypresses, ginkgos, Turkey oaks, and London planes; the North Woods—a bit of wild forest that existed before Central Park was built; and the Great Hill and the Pool, two beautiful, secluded spots beloved by residents of the Upper Westside.

May is when the flowering trees and shrubs of Central Park are at their best, and when thousands of migrating birds will be passing through the area. Bring your binoculars and be prepared to spend a large amount of time walking through Central Park.

Both Ned Barnard and Ken Chaya are experts on Central Park. Barnard's *New York City Trees* is the most extensive field guide to New York and Central Park trees to date. Chaya's map of Central Park is considered the most detailed map of any urban park in the world.

The tour group will depart at 8:00 am on May 2, 2013, from Plymouth Meeting Mall, 500 West Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. Participants will meet at the bus at 3:30 pm for a 4:00 pm departure time from Central Park. The tour group will return to Plymouth Meeting Mall at 6:30 pm.

**This is an adults-only trip. Registration is required.** Ticket cost is $100 per adult. The tour will include a box picnic lunch and a copy of *Central Park Entire: the Definitive Illustrated Folding Map.* Participants will be asked for their lunch choices on the registration page. To register, contact FOW Outreach Manager Sarah Marley at marley@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x109.
What’s Happening in the Wissahickon

1. Andorra Meadow Expansion (PPR)—Creation of approximately 21 acres of contiguous meadow and 4 acres of shrub habitat and the restoration of 5 acres of forest and forest understory. Accessible from Northwestern Avenue. Ongoing invasive plant controls. COMPLETE

2. Houston Meadow Reclamation (PPR)—Tree and shrub clearing, 7 acres of forest thinned to favor native mast-producing species, replanting, and protecting meadow with 3,900 feet of deer fencing. Ongoing planting/cutting, and invasive plant controls. COMPLETE

3. Roxborough Reservoir (PPR)—Invasive vegetation to be removed in a 3.2-acre area. Planting along Eva St. in fall 2012.

4. Wise’s Mill Stormwater Treatment Wetland (PWD)—A project to reroute storm flows with a stormwater treatment wetland that will collect stormwater from the 261 acre area that eventually discharges into Wise’s Mill Run, a tributary of Wissahickon Creek. COMPLETE

5. Wise’s Mill Stream Restoration (PWD)—A program of limited in-stream intervention to reduce stream bank erosion, improve in-stream habitat, and address critical infrastructure issues. COMPLETE

6. Bell’s Mill Run Stream Restoration (PWD)—A project to restore the Bell’s Mill stream by utilizing stone for energy dissipation and principles of natural stream channel design. COMPLETE

7. Wissahickon East Project (WEP)—Integration of land along Cresheim Creek into Fairmount Park.

8. Andorra Natural Area Improvements (FWO)—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 construction of new back porch for Wissahickon Environmental Center. (STI Stage 4—Wissahickon Environmental Center Stormwater Management).

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

10. Kitchen’s Lane Trail Construction (FWO)—Closure and stabilization of an eroding section of trail. Construction of 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.

11. Historic Rittenhouse Town (FWO)—Resurfacing and stabilization of an existing trail head to reduce sedimentation into Monoshone Creek.

This list is not comprehensive.

Keep the Conversation Going

With limited time at the Town Meeting on the Health of the Wissahickon Creek in March, 2012, not all questions submitted by audience members were answered. FOW posts answers to remaining questions in each issue of the newsletter as well as on Facebook and the FOW website.

What funding might be available to block or community associations to make changes that improve stormwater infiltration at a community group level? For example, repaving an alley with a porous system or promoting availability of rain barrels as a block or community?

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has two programs that can meet these needs. The first, the Community Input Forum, allows communities/partners to propose green stormwater infrastructure projects that will help PWD meets its green acre goals. This program and its related information request link can be found at: http://www.phillywatersheds.org/whats_in_it_for_you/CI_Index. PWD also has a grant program for non-residential properties to install management practices on their property. Information on the Stormwater Management Incentives Program (SMIP) grant can be found at: http://www.phillywatersheds.org/what_were_doing/SMIP_Grant.

—Joanne Dahme, Philadelphia Water Department’s General Manager, Public Affairs
Friends of the Wissahickon • Spring 2013

WatershedWatch

FOW Project Update
by Henry Stroud, Project Manager

Closure of Fire Road Will Reduce Stormwater at Andorra Natural Area

The Friends of the Wissahickon has begun accepting bids for the closure and restoration of an old vehicle access road near the Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC) in the Andorra Natural Area. The road has become a major conduit for stormwater, which has accelerated erosion and caused damage to the nearby trails and habitat. A Beech tree, the largest of its species in Pennsylvania, sits just below the road. During storms, the ground below it is scoured by stormwater, washing away beneficial topsoil. By closing the road and restoring it to forest habitat, we expect to lessen the stormwater burden so that this tree and other valuable resources can be protected.

Gearing Up for 2013 Trail Work

We are kicking off the trail construction season in the spring with two exciting projects:

- Beginning in March, the Friends will start rerouting the Forest Loop Trail from the Fallen Magnolia to The Cedars House. This is the second stage of a three-stage process to rehabilitate trails in the Andorra Natural Area. For this project, FOW is teaming up with trail building expert Valerie Naylor. During construction, we will be offering workshops on basic trail construction and hand-tool use (see page 12).

- This summer, construction will begin on two short re-routes of the Orange Trail near Kitchen's Lane. This hiker-only segment of trail is a popular jogging route and one of the more heavily travelled upper trails in the park. Hikers will now have two options when travelling on the Orange Trail towards Kitchen's Lane—traversing a new set of stone stairs that connect with the White Trail or following the Orange Trail to the Kitchen's Lane Bridge. More project details are available at www.fow.org.

Wissahickon Stormwater Mitigation and Sediment Reduction Project

FOW will continue to partner with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and the Philadelphia Water Department in 2013 to rehabilitate high priority erosion sites throughout the park. We will be working at Valley Green Road and Historic RittenhouseTown (HRT). FOW will continue to reduce sedimentation of the Monoshone Creek near HRT by stabilizing trail surfaces adjacent to it. Along Valley Green Road, the stream bank will be stabilized through a combination of rock armoring and riparian habitat restoration. The adjacent parking lot will also be resurfaced and restripped.

Wissahickon Creek Clean Up

April 27

This spring marks the 43rd anniversary of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association’s annual Creek Clean Up, and the fourth year that FOW has teamed up with WWVA to clean all 21 miles of the Wissahickon Creek. Volunteers of all ages will clean the creek, its surrounding trails, and its many tributaries on Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Armed with bags, volunteers will be assigned to sections of the creek to collect anything from plastic bags and swing sets, to mattresses and tires.

Following the clean up, all volunteers are invited to WVWA’s Talkin’ Trash picnic held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Fort Washington Park’s Flourtown Pavilion on Mill Road in Flourtown.

Registration is Required

To help out in Montgomery County, all volunteers must be pre-assigned a section of the Wissahickon Creek or a tributary to clean; sites range from Lansdale to Flourtown. WVWA will provide bags and tell you where to place your trash when you finish your section. Please contact Bob Adams, WVWA Director of Stewardship, at 215-646-8866 ext. 14 or bob@wwva.org. Please indicate the name, size, age range of your group, and if you plan to stay for the picnic.

To work with FOW in Philadelphia, meet at the pavilion along Forbidden Drive, a short distance south of the intersection of Forbidden Drive and Northwestern Avenue (19118). Volunteers will help clean up along the creek and nearby areas of the park and neighborhood. Parking is available along Northwestern Avenue and other nearby streets, but limited. Volunteers are encouraged to bike or carpool to the event. To participate, register at www.fow.org. Please indicate if you plan to attend the picnic. Contact Outreach Manager Sarah Marley with questions at 215-247-0417 x109 or marley@fow.org.

About Our Sponsors

This mission-driven event provides funding for WVWA’s on-going stewardship efforts through corporate sponsorship of the Creek Clean Up. The Presenting Sponsor is Merck & Co., whose West Point plant sits at the headwaters of the Wissahickon Creek. Lead Sponsor DOW Chemical Company of Spring House provides volunteer support, gloves, and T-shirts in addition to their contribution. North Wales Water Authority, MSS Movers Specialty Service, and Caddick Construction are also key supporters of the Creek Clean Up.

Additional sponsorship support comes from Ambler Savings Bank, Aqua Pennsylvania, Artman Lutheran Home, BBD, LLP, Colorcon, Inc., First Priority Bank, Manufacturer’s Golf & Country Club, North Penn Water Authority, Philadelphia Cricket Club, Rotary Club of Blue Bell, Russell Roofing, and Whole Foods of North Wales. Companies interested in sponsoring the Creek Clean Up should contact Carol DeLancey at carol@wwva.org.

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 2013 • 6 pm

FOW members are invited to gather to review the past year and learn about upcoming FOW projects. Special Guest Speaker to be announced. FOW members who attend the Annual Meeting will receive a printed copy of the Annual Report for 2012 in addition to the digital version (PDF) that all members will receive in May. RSVP online at www.fow.org or by calling 215-247-0417 x109.

Friends of the Wissahickon • Spring 2013
Partners in Water Quality

First in an occasional series in which FOW highlights the efforts of others in the Wissahickon Watershed to reduce stormwater runoff.

Green in So Many Ways:
Springside Chestnut Hill Academy

by William Hengst, Former Board Member

One day last July, residents of northwest Philadelphia (including myself) woke up to discover trees uprooted and turf torn up around the athletic fields along Willow Grove Avenue and Cherokee Street in Chestnut Hill. My first thought as I viewed the damage: is all this the result of a freak tornado? But I didn’t panic. I didn’t fire off an irate letter to the Chestnut Hill Local. Instead, during the following weeks and months, I followed the transformation as Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (SCH) turned its playing fields into something far more green.

I learned that this private school, founded in the 19th Century (CHA in 1861 and Springside in 1879) and merged recently as one school, had already completed a planning process and adopted an ambitious yet sensible master plan which sets forth a new vision for a unified campus, enhanced by physical improvements designed to optimize creativity, learning, and collaboration.

The plan calls for changes to buildings and grounds, implemented over ten years as funds are raised through a capital giving campaign. Its first phase, which began last summer, includes an expenditure of $5.5 million to construct several large stormwater retention beds under the athletic fields to store rainwater and allow it to seep into the ground or drain off-site through a network of overflow pipes should the rain produce or exceed a 100-year flood event.

By mid-fall, the retention beds and underground plumbing were in place and covered by four new playing surfaces—two natural turf fields and two multipurpose Astroturf fields—the Landreth football field and the soccer/field hockey field—each striped and ready for play. By the time the new tennis courts are open and the first ball is thrown out to commence the Blue Devil’s 2013 baseball season, the scars of last year will be gone and over 200 newly-planted native trees and shrubs will be starting to leaf. It is important to add here that some of the old trees removed along Willow Grove Avenue were in dangerous condition, and the native trees were spared.

As we all know, stormwater runoff is a serious problem throughout the Wissahickon Valley, causing erosion to trails and sedimentation and pollution to Wissahickon Creek, exacerbated by increased impervious surfaces (roofs, roads, and parking lots) outside park boundaries. The Friends of the Wissahickon’s Sustainable Trails Initiative is in the process of making the 50 miles of trails in the Wissahickon more environmentally sustainable for all park users.

Our curriculum seeks to correct the disconnect between the science of the environment and nature.

—SCH’s president, Dr. Priscilla Sands

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Sheet water runoff from the playing fields has been a long-standing problem because of the topography. From a high point along the edge of the Philadelphia Cricket Club’s paddleball courts, the fields drop off 65 feet to where Cherokee Street and Hartwell Lane meet.

SCH has been steadfast in stemming this tide. “We have handled the stormwater on site with each project we have built over the past 12 years,” the school’s Business Manager Frank Aloise said during an interview last fall. To date, a total of ten stormwater recharge beds have been built on the campus under parking lots, playing fields, and buildings; the six ones under the playing fields are the biggest.

All the rain water, which works its way through the new underground plumbing, ultimately reaches the interceptor sewer at Cherokee and Hartwell, flows down Hartwell Creek and then down to the Wissahickon Creek. Last fall, the Philadelphia Water Department completed work to stop further erosion along the banks of Hartwell Creek by installing large rocks and step pools to reduce the creek’s energy at high flows.

Stormwater management at SCH includes other measures, such as pervious paving on parking lots instead of impervious surfaces, rain gardens, and rain barrels. In partnership with Weavers Way Co-op, rain barrels collect additional water on the campus.

Today, many small rain gardens dot the campus at strategic locations near school buildings, walkways, and parking lots, each planted with native plants and wildflowers, and offering opportunities for students to experience random sightings of birds, bees, and flowering plants—in the spring, perhaps, the scent of woodland phlox or wild ginger, and in the fall, a blaze of color from cardinal flowers or butterfly weed. Several years ago, Audubon Pennsylvania singled out the school for these gardens, declaring them a showcase from which other schools can learn.
SCH’s green initiatives also encompass a commitment to alternative energy sources, recycling, as well as an environmental curriculum. The Cherokee campus hosts a string of solar panels on the roof of Vare Field House and on the main classroom building—all total, half an acre of panels. The school considered another solar installation on the roof of the new Science and Technology building, but, according to Business Manager Aloise, it wasn’t economically feasible because of the tree cover at the Willow Grove campus.

Recycling all recyclable waste materials is part of the daily routine for both students and faculty; recycling is monitored by the students, who designed a questionnaire for faculty and student feedback. All food wastes are placed in separate containers and composting on campus is tended by a worm colony.

In her remarks at a community forum last fall sponsored by FOW, Dr. Priscilla Sands, SCH’s president, stated that the school’s curriculum deliberately seeks to “correct the disconnect between the science of the environment and nature. Environmental education begins with the pre-kindergarten children who experience outdoor environmental science classes in the Wissahickon. Our students have worked with the Friends of the Wissahickon to plant more than 225 native trees and ferns and over 2,400 flowering bulbs. They’ve also participated in their share of trail restoration projects in the park.”

It is no surprise that last year SCH was named a “Green Ribbon School” by the U.S. Department of Education, “a huge honor” according to Dr. Sands. Today, SCH is green in so many ways—teaching children a deeper understanding of nature and offering examples of how residents and businesses in northwest Philadelphia could make their properties more environmentally friendly. Although underground retention beds may be beyond their budgets, they might consider a strategically placed rain garden, or experiment. How about a terrace with a pervious surface? Why not?

**New Astroturf Playing Field**

You might ask, why choose artificial turf for two of the athletic fields instead of natural grass? In fact, as Frank Aloise pointed out, it makes much more sense from both a green and an economic perspective. Artificial turf requires no irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, or mowing, and actually absorbs rain water far easier than grass turf, hence less runoff. With the large recharge beds in place beneath the fields, it’s a slam dunk. In addition, artificial turf is made of recyclable materials and lasts longer than natural turf.

Bill Hengst started the FOW newsletter in 1992 and served as the editor for ten years. He also was a member of the FOW Board of Directors during that period.

**New Members**

FOW is pleased to welcome the following new members, who joined the Friends of the Wissahickon from December 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013.

- Dr. Robert Aiken
- Mr. Tom Atkinson
- Mr. John Baker
- Mr. Jonathan Campo
- Ms. Donna Carney
- The Cechony Family
- Jan Clarke
- Mr. Jim Collins
- Mr. Thomas Connolly
- Ms. Linda Cooke
- Ms. Annelaide DeRoo
- Ms. Deanne Dissinger
- Ms. Phyllis Epstein
- Mr. Jay Gantz
- Mr. Cyane Gresham
- Ms. Natala Grindlinger
- Mr. Marshall Haegley
- Mr. and Mrs. William Harries
- Ms. Sharon Hough
- Mr. Edward Joliesiewicz
- Mrs. Judith Leifer
- Mr. Jerome Maddox
- Mr. and Mrs. Rick Markham
- Kara Markley
- Ms. Angela McGowan
- Mr. David Miller
- Ms. Margaret Morris
- Ms. Irene Palmer
- Mr. Kieran Quinn
- Mr. James A. Roensteine
- Ms. Joanne Seaver
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Sirianni Jr.
- Ms. Mariana Sorensen
- Ms. Katherine Soule
- Mr. Neil Trenk
- Mr. Ira Wallace
- Ms. Robin Zaret
- Ms. Suzanne Zimmerman

**Winter in the Wissahickon**

Winter in the Wissahickon on December 1st was sold out. This annual holiday event at Valley Green Inn and sponsored by FOW, has become a local tradition. Families and friends decorated their own holiday wreaths while enjoying chestnuts roasting on an open fire, hot apple cider, lunch, and a Winter Woods Hike led by Trish Fries from the Wissahickon Environmental Center. Children also made special treats for the wildlife that make the Wissahickon their home throughout the winter.

**New Map of Wissahickon Valley Park**

- Only $10
- Reflects STI trail changes
- Durable Synthetic Paper
- 100% recycled materials
- Clear delineations on trail use
- Updated modern graphics
- Distance markers

Available for purchase at www.fow.org
Free to all new FOW members and current members when they first renew at the $45 level or above.
Also available at The Cedars House and Valley Green Inn and at FOW’s office.
“Icy Pond,”
by Rosalind Dutton

“One Spring Afternoon,”
by Nathalie Borozny

“Rock Garden,”
by Chad Porreca
FOW's Biannual Photo Contest entered the digital age this year. Photos were posted on FOW’s Facebook page where the public viewed all entries and voted for their favorite to select the winner of the People’s Choice Award. All other prizes were awarded by local nature photographer James Stewart, whose work appears in *Wissahickon: Worth Preserving* (2007).

This year’s contest was sponsored by The Cedars House in Wissahickon Valley Park, and the winning photographs were exhibited at the Chestnut Hill Coffee Company at their new, second location at 3300 Henry Avenue in East Falls. All winning photos can also be viewed on FOW’s website at http://www.fow.org/2012-Photo-Contest.

Winning Photographs

**Best in Show:** Bruce Wagner for “Swallowtail” (on cover)

**People’s Choice Award:** Mallory Jacoby for “Reflections”

**First Place Landscape:** Rosalind Dutton for “Icy Pond”

**Second Place Landscape:** Maria Stelacio for “Winter Wonderland”

**First Place Structures:** Matt Evangelou for “Thomas Mill Gate”

**Second Place Structures:** Jim Kershaw for “Summer Bridge”

**First Place Wildlife:** Bruce Wagner for “Swallowtail”

**Second Place Wildlife:** Richard Bechtel for “Turtle on Rock”

**First Place People:** Nathalie Borozny for “One Spring Afternoon”

**Second Place People:** Laurent Guy for “Horses in the Park”

**First Place Youth Wildlife:** Chad Porreca for “Mushroom”

**First Place Youth Landscape:** Chad Porreca for “Rock Garden”
Shift Summary: Zone B—Valley Green Inn

Just greeted a dozen or so visitors to the park who virtually all commented what a beautiful day it was to be in the park. No questions. We noticed a large section of many recently downed trees near Gorgas Lane which had already been sawed and moved away from the trails. There was noticeably less trash than earlier in the year. Spotted a flock of brown creepers, a downy woodpecker, Carolina chickadees, and a red tailed hawk.

Number of dogs off leash: None

This is a sample of an FOW Trail Ambassador field report, which are routinely submitted after a patrol shift in the Wissahickon
Walks

Unless otherwise noted, hikes use rocky, rugged trails that may be wet, slippery, or steep. Please wear sturdy, protective shoes or boots and bring water/snacks if you desire. Long pants are recommended for protection against occasional poison ivy and possible ticks. Children over the age of seven are welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult. Walks are cancelled in the event of heavy rain or ice. Registration is sometimes required and always recommended so that you can be informed if there are changes. Contact marley@fow.org to register. Visit www.fow.org for updated information.

**Orange Trail Hike with Merritt Rhoad**
Sunday, March 10  1 pm  •  Sunday, April 14  1 pm
Meet at Northwestern Ave. & Forbidden Drive. Duration: 2-2 1/2 hours.
Difficulty: moderate. Distance: about 4 miles along Forbidden Drive to Bell's Mill Rd and then along the Orange & White Trails to the Indian Statue with return to Northwestern Ave. along Forbidden Drive at a conversational pace.

**Singles Walk/Hike with Monica Hemmers**
Sunday, March 17  10 am  •  Saturday, April 13  10 am
Meet at Valley Green Inn. Duration: 2 - 3 hours. This walk is for all single people ages 22 to 40. We will climb some steep hills on rocky terrain so please wear hiking boots or sneakers sturdy enough for hiking. After the hike you may want to enjoy lunch at Valley Green Inn. More info: mhemmers11@verizon.net.

Meandering in the Wissahickon with Shelly Brick
Come and enjoy the upper trails of our park and “Talk Story,” a Hawaiian tradition. Pace will be set by the group. More info: shellybrick@verizon.net.

**Saturday, March 16, 2 pm**
Meet at Kitchen's Lane entrance to the park off Wissahickon Ave.

**Saturday, April 13, 2 pm**
Meet at the intersection of Wayne Ave. and Allen's Lane.

**Sunday, May 19, 2 pm**
Meet at the Chestnut Hill entrance to the park on Chestnut Hill Ave. and Seminole St.

**Sunday, June 23, 2 pm**
Meet at the Rex Ave. entrance to the park off Seminole Street.

**Three Mile Hikes with Kimberly Quinn**
Saturday, March 16  12 pm
Wednesday, April 10  5:15 pm
Wednesday, May 8  5:15 pm
Meet at Valley Green Inn. Difficulty: moderate. Duration: 2 hours. Distance: 3+ miles. Group sets the pace of the hike. We'll hike along the less traveled Orange Trail, downstream from Valley Green. Wear supportive hiking shoes and bring water. Cameras and binoculars encouraged. Suitable for children over 8 accompanied by a responsible adult. More info: kimberlyq Quinn@gmail.com.

Geology Hike with Sarah West
**Saturday, March 23  3 pm**
Meet at Valley Green Inn. Duration: 1.75 hours. Distance: 1.5 miles along a rough, steep trail on the east side of the creek upstream from Valley Green. Slippery or muddy in places. This hike is suitable for children over 10 accompanied by a responsible adult. Please bring water and sturdy footwear. More info: westsarah@aol.com.

Wandering the Valley to Find the “Best” Pictures with Bruce Wagner
**Saturday, April 6  9 am**
Meet at Cedars House on Forbidden Drive near Northwestern Ave. Duration: 3 hours. The Wissahickon Valley is beautiful. How do we get the best photos of it? We will follow paths along the creek stopping for unusual photo opportunities. Expect moderate hills and rocks on the trails. More info: bwagner@temple.edu.

From the Back of a Horse with Cynthia Turecki
**Sunday, April 7  11 am**
Meet at Courtesy Stable. Duration: 2.5 hours. Registration is required: maximum of 6 people, maximum weight limit 200 lbs. Participants will take turns riding the horse for 15 minutes, being led under control of instructor, who will teach you as you ride. Each person gets 15 minutes on the horse. Age 18 & under must be accompanied by an adult. A waiver must be signed. More info: barnmanager@courtesystable.org.

Spring Awakening in the Park with Scott Quitel
**Saturday, April 13  9 am**
Meet at Forbidden Drive and Bell's Mill Road. Hike some mildly rigorous trails in search of spring ephemerals. Experience the Park springing to life. Bring your senses.

**Spring Wildflower Walk with Don Simon**
**Saturday, April 27  10 am**
Meet at parking lot on Northwestern Ave., on the Roxborough side. Duration: 2 hours. Distance: 2-3 miles. We will hike the meadow and some of the trails around the Andorra Natural Area. The terrain is fairly easy, no steep climbs or descents. Participants may want to bring a field guide, camera for photographs, and a notebook.

**Lower Forbidden Drive with Sarah West**
**Sunday, May 5  3 pm**
Meet at the small parking lot where Forbidden Drive meets Lincoln Drive, a short distance downstream from RittenhouseTown. Duration: 1.75 hours. Distance: 1 mile along lower Forbidden Drive on level ground as far as the Walnut Lane Bridge. More info: WestSarah@aol.com.

Waters of the Wissahickon with Diane Garvey
**Saturday, May 11  1 pm**
Meet at Northwestern Equestrian Facility on Northwestern Avenue. Duration: 2 hours. Difficulty: moderate. Distance: 2+ miles, downstream on the Orange Trail to the Covered Bridge, back on Wissahickon Drive. Waterproof shoes recommended. We will use the Wissahickon as a living laboratory to measure how much and how fast the water flows and look at turbulent and laminar flow, and more. Ideal for families and homeschoolers 6 years & older accompanied by a responsible adult.
More info: Diane@GarveyResources.com.

**Talks**

The public is invited to The Cedars House for a free lecture series presented by FOW Trail Ambassadors. These programs are suitable for children ten and over, accompanied by a responsible adult. All lectures are free to the public. The Cedars House is located on Forbidden Drive near Northwestern Avenue in Wissahickon Valley Park. Registration is strongly recommended as space is limited. To register, contact FOW Outreach Manager Sarah Marley at marley@fow.org. Visit www.fow.org for updated information.

**17th and 18th Century Mills and Homesteads**
**Sunday, March 3  2 pm**
A 45 minute slide presentation by Trail Ambassador Sarah West during which she discusses historic Mills along the Wissahickon Creek and shares historic views and information about the homesteads that were associated with them

**Understanding Horses**
**Sunday, March 17  2 pm**
Have you ever wondered how a horse thinks and communicates? This presentation by Trail Ambassador Cynthia Turecki will help you understand the horse’s point of view. If the weather is suitable, she will bring her horse for a demonstration.

**Historical Geology of the Wissahickon Gorge**
**Sunday, March 24  2 pm**
A 45 minute presentation by Trail Ambassador Sarah West and (if the weather is suitable) a short, easy geology walk along Forbidden Drive between Northwestern Avenue and Bell's Mill Rd.
Volunteer Update

Saturday Workdays with FOW

March 23 and 30 • 10 am to 2 pm

Join FOW in the Andorra Natural Area for a trail building workshop and trail maintenance work day. Meet at the Andorra Tree House. Trail building expert Valerie Naylor will instruct volunteers on the basics of sustainable trail building, working with hand tools, and trail work and tool safety. Following instruction, volunteers will refine and finish sections of trail by cutting back slope, removing debris, compacting the trail surface, and possibly building small sections of a stone retaining wall.

Conservation Volunteers

Thanks to the 30 most active conservation volunteers and everyone else who came out in 2012.

| Volunteer Crew Leaders | 10,817 Total Volunteer hours | 817 Total Volunteers | 59 Trail Ambassadors | 237 Trail Ambassador Shifts |

Rich Berman, Ron Kanter, Mike Souders, Mark Blaustein, Brian Murphy, Ed Stainton, Eric Ervin, Merritt Rhoad, Bill Thompson, Bob Harries, Tim Singeliski, Buzz Wemple

2012 Volunteers by the numbers

Volunteer of the Year:

Kevin Kramer

by Dena Sher, Associate Editor

Since 2010, the Friends of the Wissahickon has awarded the title of "Volunteer of the Year" to one of its large crew of volunteers who accumulated a total of 10,877 hours of work in 2012. The recipient this year is Kevin Kramer, who clocked a grand total of 250 hours, mostly on trail upgrading and maintenance.

Kevin has a long history of performing trail work. His more than 20 years of engaging in this challenging activity was usually on footpaths, and only when he began volunteering with FOW in 2011, did he apply his skills to multi-use trails. When he lived in Texas, he worked on the Lone Star Trail. After moving to the Philadelphia region in 1992, he worked on trails maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club in the Delaware Water Gap area and then in the National Recreation Area near Allentown.

Home for Kevin was Iowa, in a town called Waterloo. His interest in the out-of-doors began with a three-week backpacking trip to Colorado during his sophomore year in high school. He was also a Boy Scout, earning numerous badges, but not enough to qualify as an Eagle Scout. His project for the Order of the Arrow was trail maintenance.

Backpacking on trails in National Parks such as Yellowstone, Glacier, and the Arches in Utah is how Kevin vacations. He travels with a group that rents a cabin and is very much interested in cooking as well as hiking. "We call ourselves a Hiking Club with a Cooking Disorder."

He knows the trails in the Wissahickon well, not only because of his weekly work on them, but because he hikes them regularly. When weather or weariness does not allow outdoor activity, Kevin reads avidly. His preference is for Laymen's books on physics or historical fiction. He has read, in the course of one year, the 31 books on the medieval templar society written by Michael Jecks.

During an interview, Kevin spoke at length of the problems of trail maintenance in the Wissahickon because of their heavy use. "Users go off the trail too often to avoid any obstacle in their path. Also, they do not adhere to the designated uses of the trails." What is needed, he says, is "more prominent signage regarding intended use of the specific trail, because users often traveling at more than the 7 mile per hour rule in the Wissahickon can easily miss discreet signs."

Kevin is rather modest about his honor. He is quick to praise the other volunteers who work with him as being very knowledgeable and dedicated. He says, however, that because of the popularity of the Wissahickon as a destination for hikers, bikers, and equestrians, the trails in the park will always experience heavy use and require maintenance under the guidance of knowledgeable leaders.

Winter Workdays

Twenty-one volunteers came out to remove a bridge that was salvaged for materials and perform trail work near the Hermitage on January 12. On Martin Luther King Day, students from Springside Chestnut Hill Academy and the Student Conservation Association joined forces with Boy Scout Troop #221 from Chestnut Hill to work with FOW volunteers. They removed removed trash and debris throughout the park and dismantled an old deer enclosure under the direction of David Bower, Volunteer Coordinator for Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. The group is pictured near the Warming Shed at Valley Green prior to the start of their “day on.”

What did you do in 2012?

FOW volunteers planted 600 trees and shrubs, removed over 3 acres of invasive plants, filled 488 bags of trash, cleared over 85 fallen trees after Hurricane Sandy, built 9,230 feet of sustainable trail, and closed 4,018 feet of unsustainable trail, led 36 guided walks, and performed 230 Trail Ambassador shifts.

FOW volunteers celebrated their 2012 accomplishments with dinner, courtesy of Valley Green Inn, at the Sixth Annual Volunteer Recognition Evening on December 4. Seated here are: Dee Grubin, Valerie Fitter, John Duffy, and Diana Hubboy. Valley Green Inn also showed their appreciation for FOW volunteers by donating gift cards and coupons which were raffled off to those attending.
FOW Hosts Public Meeting on STI

The Friends of the Wissahickon hosted a public meeting at New Covenant Campus to discuss progress to date on the Sustainable Trails Initiative (STI), upcoming STI projects, and new park signage for Wissahickon Valley Park. STI is a multi-year project to make the 50 miles of National Recreation Trails in the Wissahickon a physically and socially sustainable system that works for all park users. This project is being executed in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

Upcoming work includes projects at the Andorra Natural Area and the Wissahickon Environmental Center, and a signage plan, part of STI that has been in development for approximately five years. This signage project is the first comprehensive plan for a new park-wide signage system that will orient park users during their visits to the Wissahickon and help them deal with potential safety and health emergencies on the trails.

Your Questions Answered

Q: Any chance “The Monster Hill” trail which leads from Courtesy Stables going north down to Bell’s Mill Road can be rerouted soon?

A: FOW does not have plans to reroute this section of trail in the next 12 months, but all trails will be evaluated as we continue STI planning.

Q: How can we assure that plantings done at the Valley Green Stream Stabilization Project will be done correctly?

A: The plantings for this project will be done by well-trained FOW volunteers.

Q: Will the Kitchen’s Lane staircase be suitable for equestrian use?

A: The Kitchen’s Lane staircase will be a new, hiker-only connection from the Orange Trail to the White Trail, so it will not result in a loss of access for any user group.

Q: Is there any information available about what was learned from the recent sign survey?

A: The existing park signage was inventoried last summer, generating details on the location, content, and type of each sign located in the park. This information will be used to help FOW plan the production and installation of the new, park-wide signage system. In total, we documented ~300 trail and/or park related signs. This does not include signs maintained by other city agencies, such as police, fire, or streets.

Notes from an Expert Birder

In 2005, Fairmount Park was named an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Audubon Pennsylvania. This includes Wissahickon Valley Park, with a diversity of habitat that attracts over 250 species of birds each year.

One such habitat is Houston Meadow, located in the Roxborough section of the Wissahickon. There are many species of birds that have returned to this meadow in recent years due to the variety of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, such as oaks and hickories. If you haven’t taken a stroll there, this spring would be an ideal time to do so. New trails in the meadow were redesigned and constructed by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) and FOW. The new FOW Map indicates the various entrances to the meadow.

Great Horned Owls are present in the Wissahickon all year round. This nesting owl is easier to see before the leaves appear. The fledglings can be seen just as spring arrives.

The Wood Ducks return in the spring to nest using the boxes provided by the FOW or in tree cavities. While strolling along Forbidden Drive, the ducks can be seen until early fall.

Last spring I stopped to converse with volunteers doing trail maintenance near the Covered Bridge, an excellent place to spot birds in the Wissahickon. Of course, I was birding and enjoying the songs of the Parula and Palm Warblers. And close by was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet feasting on insects.

Our beloved Wissy (birder’s term) comes alive with song in April and May. The benches along Forbidden Drive provide ample opportunity stop, look, and listen to our feathered friends. Take time to enjoy it. Happy Birding!

READ MORE: http://fow.org/about-park/activities/bird-watching

Did you know?

The Houston Meadow Reclamation Project has improved conditions for birds and other wildlife. Initiated by PPR and Audubon Pennsylvania, this project enlarged and enhanced the meadow. The work included: delineating new boundaries of the meadow, which was nearly four times its current size in 1959; removing many early-successional trees which were encroaching on the meadow; identifying important trees to keep for bird habitat; controlling invasive non-native plants; seeding with native wildflowers and warm-season grasses; and planting native shrubs along meadow edges.

National Trails Day

June 1, 2013 • 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Join FOW and REI Conshohocken in this nation-wide effort to raise awareness of and care for the trails in Wissahickon Valley Park.

Meet at the parking lot at Kitchen’s Lane, down Wissahickon Avenue in Mt. Airy, for invasive plant removal and trail maintenance.

Register with FOW Outreach Manager Sarah Marley at marley@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x109.
Update: Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers

by Susannah Beckett, WRV Field Director

The Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers (WRV) had another successful year of restoration work by volunteers in 2012. WRV led some 400 volunteers on 40 restoration days, removed thousands of invasive plants, and planted approximately 300 native trees and shrubs. WRV 2012 sites include:

- Roxborough - Invasive removal and planting off Henry Avenue and Wigard Avenue near the Scout House.
- Mt Airy - WRV continued our decade long commitment to the forest area off Kitchen's Lane, expanding our restoration work toward the Monastery Stables.
- Chestnut Hill - Our newest site is the Lavender Trail near the Crefeld gate.

This year has started off great. WRV received a National Environmental Education grant to hold gatherings to further our mission of thoughtful, volunteer based, natural restoration work in Wissahickon Valley Park. So far, we participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service, leading 30 volunteers and an educational hike. This February, WRV held its first Advisory Board meeting. This group consists of individuals devoted to the ecological health of the Wissahickon, including a biologist, an employee of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), and an ecologist from a local environmental firm.

As for WRV’s 2013 restoration plans, our Wigard Avenue site has grown to include the removal of four large stands of the tree Devil’s Walking Stick. We will also focus on planting native trees roadside along Henry Avenue at Hermit Lane and between Wigard Avenue and Wise’s Mill Road. This spring, our new Lavender Trail site will be planted with canopy trees and understory shrubs. WRV looks forward to working with PPR and FOW on our shared vision of a healthy natural environment in the Wissahickon.

To be a Wissahickon Restoration Volunteer, join a WRV Crew Leader the first Saturday or third Sunday of every month in the Wissahickon. Contact WRV to schedule a special restoration workday for your group of ten or more. To volunteer in your neck of the woods, check out our events calendar at www.wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.com. See you in the woods!

Summer Camps in the Wissahickon Valley

Briar Bush Nature Center

Briar Bush provides the opportunity to experience the wonders of nature through games, hikes, crafts, live animal encounters, and free play time. Older campers venture to local natural areas and places of interest to increase their knowledge and comfort level in the outdoors.


Location: 1212 Edge Hill Road, Abington, PA 19001
More Information: 215-887-6603 or www.briarbus.com

Pennypack Environmental Center

Explore, investigate, and enjoy Pennypack Park during this fun-filled week. Nature Camp is the perfect setting to discover nature’s wonders in a safe, educational, and social environment.

Nature Camp. (June 24–28) Ages 8-12 years. 9 am-3 pm. $125.00 per child. Limited to 24 children. Register early. Registration is not complete until payment received and space is confirmed. Payment is non-refundable. Classes are taught by park staff and guest educators from other professional organizations. Optional one-night campout for an additional fee.

Location: 2600 A Venre Road, Philadelphia PA 19115
More Information: 215-685-0470 or pec@phil.gov

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

SCEE offers two environmentally-based summer camp programs run by experienced environmental educators and gives children and teens opportunities to explore the natural world and their connection to it.

Nature Ramblers Summer Camp. Ages 4 to 9. Takes place on 340 acres of diverse habitat and provides intimate and ongoing access to forests, fields, streams, ponds, and an organic farm garden. For more information, contact Camila Rivera-Tinsley at 215-482-7300 x122 or crivera@schuylkillcenter.org.

Summer Adventure Treks. Ages 10-15. Challenges pre-teens and teens to improve their outdoor knowledge and skills in a comfortable and supportive setting. For more information, contact Anna Marchelka at 215-482-7300 x140 or anna@schuylkillcenter.org.

Location: 8480 Hays Mill Road, Philadelphia PA 19128
More Information: scee@schuylkillcenter.org or www.schuylkillcenter.org

Wissahickon Environmental Center

Online registration begins Sunday, April 1, 2013, at 12 am. Space is limited to the first 25 registrants. Sibling discount:25.00 discount is offered for each additional sibling registering for the same week. Each child may only attend one week of summer camp at WEC. If registration is full and you are interested in being on a wait list or receiving emails about WEC camp programs in 2014, email WEC@phila.gov.

Tree House Adventure Camp. (June 17-21 or June 24-28) Ages 6-10. Limited to first 25 registrants. A week-long camp filled with nature discovery, games, and adventures. Children divided into small groups according to age and taught by an experienced education staff member and junior counselor. 9 am to 3 pm. Cost: $185 for one week.

Out-N-About Camp. (August 12-16) Ages 11-14. Limited to first 12 registrants. Day trips may include tubing on the Delaware, raft building, rock climbing, canoeing, biking, a downtown scavenger hunt, and more. An extended day trip followed by an overnight camp-out is planned for 8/15 9 am to 8/16 1 pm. Transportation to all activities is included. 9 am to 3 pm. Cost: $200 for one week.

Location: 300 Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128
More Information: 215-685-9285 or WEC@phila.gov

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

Summer Education Camp. Ages 8-17. Takes place at the Temple University Ambler Campus on Meetinghouse Road. A wonderful opportunity for youths to learn about a specific area of interest, experience a college campus, and have lots of fun at the same time. There is a 10% discount for registration by April 30, 2013.

Location: 580 Meetinghouse Road, Ambler, PA 19002
More Information: 267-468-8500 or www.ambler.temple.edu/camps
Wissahickon Day • April 28

The 2013 annual Wissahickon Day Parade will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2013, on Forbidden Drive in Wissahickon Valley Park. The parade is the oldest annual equine parade in the U.S. and is sponsored by the Wissahickon Valley Riding and Driving Association (WRDA).

The Parade has a rich history; tradition dictates that only riders and drivers participate—no one walks. This tradition relates to the purpose of the original 1921 parade, which was to protest the proposal to open up this main Wissahickon Valley Park path to automobiles. A “Save the Wissahickon” campaign rallied hundreds of equestrians and thousands of spectators. The proposal was defeated, cars were “forbidden,” and Forbidden Drive got its name.

The parade will start at 12:00 p.m., departing from Harper’s Meadow. Line-up will start with carriages in front of Northwestern Equestrian Facility (NWEF) at approximately 11:45 a.m. Riders will fall in line behind the carriages starting at Harper’s Meadow. The Parade will travel to Forbidden Drive and continue along the Drive to the judging area at Valley Green Inn.

A Horse Show will precede the parade, with classes held in the outdoor arena of NWEF, starting at 10:00 a.m. Classes include English, Western, Costume, Stable Group, and Carriages. Registration for both the Show and the Parade begins at 9:00 a.m.

Spectators can watch the Horse Show from the bleachers in front of the ring in Harper’s Meadow, while Parade viewing is available anywhere along Forbidden Drive. The judging area in front of Valley Green Inn is the most popular Parade viewing site. Picnic areas are available throughout the park. Food and beverages are available at Valley Green Inn, where reservations for meals are recommended. Northwestern Avenue will be closed to traffic and parking to accommodate horse trailers and carriages. Parking will be available in the upper lots at Valley Green.

For more information or to register, contact Jo Catanzaro at jocat11@verizon.net.
Friends of the Wissahickon

ThIRD SUNDAY OF EYHERMTH
Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers (WRC) will lead a service project from 10 am to noon as part of their going reforestation activities. Details and directions to the worksite posted on the WRV webpage (http://wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.org) at least one week prior to the event. For information and to RSVP, contact WRV at 215-951-0330 x201 or wrvinfo@fow.org. Day or event, call Ron at 215-483-4348.

EVERY TUESDAY
Friends of the Wissahickon volunteers repair and build structures in the Wissahickon from 9 am to 1 pm. If you are handy with tools and like to build, contact FOW Volunteer Coordinator Eric Falk at falkief@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wissahickon Service Projects (September through May) 1 pm to 3 pm. Join Creffeld School, Friends of the Wissahickon, and Fairmount Park. Something new every week. Call David Bowler at 215-685-0120 for information.

EVERY THURSDAY
Friends of the Wissahickon volunteers do repairs within the Wissahickon from 9 am to 1 pm. If you would like to help, contact FOW’s Volunteer Coordinator Eric Falk at falkief@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

SATURDAYS
Friends of the Wissahickon leads a service project at various locations in the Park from 10 am to 2 pm, unless it is a holiday or there is inclement weather. Projects include trail maintenance, invasive weed removal, planting and clean-ups. For information, check the volunteer calendar at www.fow.org/volunteering/ongoing-weekdays or contact Volunteer Coordinator Eric Falk at falkief@fow.org or 215-247-0417 x107.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers (WRC) will lead a service project from 10 am to noon as part of their on-going reforestation activities. Project details and directions to the worksite will be posted at www.wissahickonrestorationvolunteers.org at least one week prior to the event. For information and to RSVP, contact WRV at 215-951-0330 x201 or wrvinfo@fow.org.

Future calendar listings for the newsletter may be placed by contacting the Friends of the Wissahickon at 215-247-0417 or office@fow.org. The Calendar of Events in the Wissahickon may also be viewed on FOW’s website www.fow.org, which contains updates on our events, including cancellations.

Running Clubs

Every Thursday
Wissahickon Wanderers Trail Run, 4-5 miles. Starts 6:30 pm. at Valley Green Inn. For details call 215-849-9080 or visit www.wanderersrunningclub.org.

Every Saturday
Shawmont Running Club. Starts at the end of Forbidden Drive/Northwestern Ave. From the 2nd Saturday in May through the 2nd Saturday in October we start at 7:30 am. From the 3rd Saturday in October through the 1st Saturday in May we start at 8 am. Distances are at the discretion of runners. All levels welcome. Emphasis is on fun! www.shawmontrunningclub.com.

Check our website for updates—www.fow.org

Friends of the Wissahickon Membership Form

Learn about the honeybee's role in a healthy ecosystem. Taste local honey!

Learn about the wonders overhead during this month's New Moon.

Join us for a morning introduction to amphibians. We'll listen and search for our resident tree frog.

FLY IN NIGHT: FRIDAY, MAY 10 7 PM
Discover the wonders overhead during this month's New Moon. Bring flashlights and come prepared to hike through the woods.

All ages

Do you enjoy searching for frogs and toads? If so, then join us for an early evening introduction to amphibians. We'll learn and search for our resident green frogs and American Toads.

All ages

Supported by Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). 5-8 pm.
20% of Inn sales for the night.

All ages

Pre-registration is required for all programs. Space is limited, so register early! For information and registration, please call 215-685-8285 or email WEC@phila.gov

Contact the Friends of the Wissahickon at 215-247-0417 or office@fow.org. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll free, within Pennsylvania (800) 732-0999.

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

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

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