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Editor  
Joan Nikelsky

Designer  
Cathleen Bolduc

# The Friends

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## HISTORY HIKE ON THE MULTI-USE TRAIL APRIL 19

Did you ever wonder about the houses and building ruins on or just off the multi-use trail?

Who lives or lived in them? What is the history of these dwellings and how old are they? Here's an event that will give you some answers to these questions.

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park is offering a "history hike" on Saturday April 19 starting at 10 am from Area 15, which is a picnic site toward the end of Sandy Flash Drive, past the turnoff for Areas 16 and 17 - follow signs. We will begin the multi-use trail (MUT) from that point and traverse the entire loop, stopping along the way to talk about the buildings and fields we encounter.

*(con't pg 5)*



*K. O'Connell, 2014 Photo Contest*

FRIENDS OF RCSP VOICEMAIL

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR FRIENDS AT ANY TIME WITH YOUR COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS. LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 484-442-0223, AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU ASAP!



*A. Stewart, 2009 Photo Contest*

A free one-day workshop on maintaining non-motorized shared-use trails in the park will be held on Saturday, April 26, in Broomall from 8 am to 4 pm. This event is offered by the Pennsylvania Equine Council (PEC) and hosted by the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park.

The workshop will cover trail layout, construction, and maintenance techniques; tool selection and use; and information regarding the different public land agencies. Trail workers are especially invited to attend.

The mission of the PEC is to make it easier, more affordable, safer, and more enjoyable to own equines and to participate in equestrian sports in Pennsylvania. The workshop leaders will be Bud Wills, State Trail Chair of the PEC, and Gwen Wills, Trail Stewardship Coordinator of the PEC. They host several trainings in Pennsylvania, including Packing Clinics, Horse Camp, and three-day Trail Stewardship Workshops in State College which includes

field work. Bud and Gwen have engaged a lot of people in areas that have a large equine presence.

Coffee, donuts, snacks, and a light lunch will be provided at the workshop, to be held at the Broomall Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 50 N. Malin Road in Broomall. Pre-registration is required; call or e-mail Anita Naylor, 609-271-7484, rcptrails@comcast.net.

On Sunday, April 27, the day after the workshop, volunteers will perform maintenance on the equestrian trail in Ridley

## TRAIL STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP APRIL 26

Creek State Park under the supervision of Bud and Gwen, meeting at Area 8 at 9 am. Work will include checking culverts and clearing debris, removing berms (raised paths) and filling in gullies, and putting signs on trails. Participating in this workday is not a requirement to attend the workshop on Saturday.

Be sure to pre-register and come to the workshop to learn the skills needed to be an effective volunteer in Ridley Creek State Park!



*Trail Workday at Ridley*

## STREAMS CLEAN UP MAY 3

With the coming of Spring, the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park is once again joining with the Chester-Ridley-Crum (CRC) Watersheds Association to support their annual Streams Cleanup Day. Ridley participants will meet at 9 am at the Mansion on Saturday, May 3.

Jack Miller, President of the Friends, is serving as Site Coordinator for the Ridley trail workers, who attend monthly trail work days on the first Saturday of each month. His message to potential volunteers is "we intend to offer an event for anyone who wants to join us and vent a little anger on some debris,

plant protection cages, or stream blockages."

Participants will receive a T-shirt and lunch after the event at Pavilion 17 in the park. To be counted in for a T-shirt and lunch, be sure to register at CRC's website <http://crcwatersheds.org>, indicate you are with the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park in block 4 of the sign-up form, and select location #220.

With other community volunteers, you will be part of an effort shared by 27 different sites throughout the watersheds of Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creeks.

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## New Signage to Help Navigate Park Trails

Coming this summer, posts will be installed along trails in the park, marking trail intersections and showing the way for the yellow, white, blue, and orange trails. You may notice these posts where foot trails cross the Multi-Use Trail, cross park roads, or intersect with other trails.

The posts are being purchased by the Friends

of Ridley Creek State Park, thanks to donations from members and contributors like you. The installation will be done by trail volunteers. If you're interested in helping out in this significant trail improvement project, contact Gary Sawyer at [muddyboots@comcast.net](mailto:muddyboots@comcast.net).

## Appreciation of the Friends from the Colonial Plantation

The Friends trail work coordinator received the following letter from Pat Theodore, the President of Colonial Plantation, in the Fall of 2013: "... the Plantation owes a big thank you for the work done that first Saturday in October. We owe much gratitude to the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park as you did the really "nasty" job of trying to remove the invasives from the right portion of our wet meadow.

For me personally your work is a dream come true as I have wanted to re-start the project begun several years ago by the Country Gardeners - that is to establish native plants in the wet meadow that would improve the appearance of our entrance. Getting the invasives under control was a big stumbling block, and the work of the "Friends" has paved the way for us to take step two which is to treat the area with a pre-emergent in the spring.

Please let your members know that all of us at the Plantation are appreciative of your work. I hope those who worked on the project with CRC will have an opportunity to see how improved the area will look in the spring."

# FRIENDS OF RIDLEY FREE PICNIC JUNE 7

Our annual member and volunteer appreciation picnic will take place on Saturday June 7 at noon, after the trail workday, rain or shine. All trail workers and members of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park are welcome to come, enjoy the eats, socialize, and attend a brief annual meeting for Friends members.

Meet us at Pavilion 14, a sheltered site toward the end of Sandy Flash Drive, past the turnoff for Areas 16 and 17 - follow signs. The Friends will serve up hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, beverages, and other picnic fare. Feel free to bring a

dessert or other dish to share.

The annual meeting will include officer elections. The offices of President and Vice-President are up for election; these posts are currently held by Jack Miller and Joan Nikelsky, respectively. Current members of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and newly signed up members will receive ballots to vote.

Please RSVP for the picnic so we can plan the food, especially if you are vegetarian or have other dietary needs. E-mail members@friendsofrcsp.org or call Joan at 610-352-5685 by Thursday, June 5, if you can.

We hope to see you there!

## RIDLEY 2014 PHOTO CONTEST

The 2014 Photo Contest award ceremony was held at the Mansion on January 26, 2014. We congratulate the winners, listed here with their photo titles:

### Adult Category

First Prize: Susan A. Brooks  
(Ridley Creek With Sparkling Snow)  
Second Prize: Sean Berger  
(Standing Tall)  
Third Prize: Elizabeth Duckworth  
(Azure Autumn)  
Honorable Mention: Kari Andersen  
(Lucky Lady)

### Youth Category

First Prize: Jacob Rankin  
(Little Bird)  
Second Prize: Joey Wheeler  
(The Tree House)  
Honorable Mention:  
Tommy Salko (Majestic Tree)

We would like to thank all of the people who submitted entries, all the supporters, and especially professional photographers Hank Schott and Danielle Alvaro for volunteering their time to judge the photos and give pointers to aspiring photographers!

Well done everyone!



*Jack Miller, President of the Friends, congratulates 1st prize winner, Susan Brooks.*

# HISTORY HIKE ON THE MULTI-USE TRAIL

(con't from pg 1)

Tim Higgins, Treasurer and long-time Board member of the Friends, will be our guide. Learn the legend of the cow bridge, imagine the Jeffords' prize horses drinking from a horse trough that's still on the trail, hear about the grist mill from the 18th and 19th centuries, see the old one-room schoolhouse, now a private residence, and other sights.

Some of the buildings date back to the 1700s!

The full MUT walk, a paved trail, is about 4.5 miles and should take 2-2.5 hours, so dress appropriately and bring water and snacks. Please arrive on time so we can start promptly!

For those not able to do the entire walk, there will be a "drop off" point where you can turn around and

make your way back to your vehicle.

If you have questions or want more information, call Tim at 610-608-4388.

The guided walk is free and no reservations are required. However, calling Tim or emailing him at [timhiggins2@msn.com](mailto:timhiggins2@msn.com) saying you are planning to come would be helpful and appreciated.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY TRAIL WORK. MEET AT PARK OFFICE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9AM.

HISTORY HIKE ON THE MULTI-USE TRAIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 10AM. MEET AT AREA 15

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP WITH PENNSYLVANIA EQUINE COUNCIL.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 8AM-4PM, BROOMALL

MAINTENANCE WORKDAY ON EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, WEATHER PERMITTING.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 9AM, MEET AT AREA 8

ANNUAL STREAMS CLEANUP: TRAIL WORKDAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHESTER-RIDLEY-CRUM WATERSHED ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 9AM, MEET AT PARK OFFICE

FREE PICNIC FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS AND TRAIL WORKERS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, NOON, PAVILION 14