



The Friends

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SPRING/SUMMER 2015

CAROL RUBIN HONORED BY THE FRIENDS

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Jack Miller, Friends President, and Tim Higgins, Friends Treasurer, stand with honoree Carol Rubin.

On Sunday April 19, Carol Rubin, former long time Board member of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park, was honored by having her name engraved on the memorial plaque located in the park fountain area near the Mansion. The plaque is dedicated to naming the individuals who

made a significant contribution to Ridley Creek State Park.

Carol was a member of the original Board formed in 2000, which set the groundwork for the Friend's current operating structure. Carol was strongly endorsed by the former

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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!

cont. from cover

park manager, Roger McChesney, for inclusion on the memorial plaque because she was the most successful and innovative fund raiser the Friends have ever had. As Program Chair, she spent countless hours working to plan and organize projects that would benefit Ridley Creek State Park and she always displayed an infectious enthusiasm for the Friends.

The annual Holiday Party, held in December, was created and directed by Carol. The Holiday Party included a live band or disc jockey, along with sumptuous finger food and an open bar serving beer and wine, plus the Glee club from Penncrest High School singing holiday songs in the beautifully decorated mansion. At its peak, the party attracted over 90 guests.



The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park Board members with Carol Rubin. Back row: Gary Sawyer, Tim Higgins, Jack Miller. Front row: Joan Nikelsky, Carol, Paul Mickle.

Carol's signature fund raiser was a holiday house tour: local historical homes in and around the park were opened to the public. This event was tremendously popular and enjoyed by all who came. Carol made all the events not only successful, but fun for both helpers and attendees.

Carol's family and friends, as well as Friends of Ridley Creek

State Park members, attended a brief ceremony at the plaque, where comments and praise were provided by Tim Higgins and Jack Miller of the Friends Board. Following that, a lunch reception was held in the Mansion ballroom. Carol seemed truly thrilled to be included on the memorial plaque and to be honored. She mentioned her dedicated commitment to giving back to the park for the many ways the park enhances the quality of life for her and other people in the area.

This article was contributed by Tim Higgins, Board member of the Friends.



FRIENDS OF RIDLEY ANNUAL FREE PICNIC

Mark your calendars for our annual member and volunteer appreciation picnic on Saturday June 6 at noon, after the trail workday. The picnic is open to all trail workers and members of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and will be followed by a brief annual meeting and election for Friends members.

The location for the event is Pavilion 14, which is a sheltered site at the end of Sandy Flash Drive South. The picnic will be held rain or shine and is compliments of the Friends: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, beverages, and other picnic fare. People are welcome to bring a dessert or other dish to share.

The annual meeting will include officer elections. Current members of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and newly signed up

members will be able to vote. We have an opening for Treasurer (see box "Looking for a Treasurer" on page 5). There's also an opening for Recording Secretary - and we greatly appreciate Gary Sawyers' many years of service in this position! The Recording Secretary takes minutes for Board meetings (several times a

year) and distributes them to Board members - if you are interested in this position, please e-mail members@friendsofrcsp.org or call Joan at 610-498-5346.

Please RSVP for the picnic so we can plan the food. E-mail members@friendsofrcsp.org or call Joan at 610-498-5346 by Wednesday, June 3, if you can. We hope to see you there!



A. Langman, 2013 Photo Contest

WANT TO ADOPT A TRAIL?

By Tim Higgins

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park are looking for individuals who love the park and the park trail system to adopt one section of the more than 12 miles of trail in the park.

The adopter should be willing to walk their section of trail two times a month, approximately, observing the trail overall condition, noting and reporting any conditions that need attention, such as blow-downs, erosion problems, tripping hazards or any

other safety issues, and clip back encroaching vegetation during the growing season. Tools necessary to accomplish the above can be loaned to the adopter by the Friends. The adopter can "work" on their section of trail whenever it is convenient to them - in the evening, on weekends, or any day that they have time.

This is a great opportunity to give back to the park and enjoy contributing to the upkeep of our "jewel in the suburbs." I have adopted a trail section

for the past 7 years and look forward to continuing doing so for another seven. Several other adopters have kept their trail sections for 7 years as well. If you are interested in finding out more about this fun and worthwhile project, please contact me through the website www.friendsofrcsp.org or on my cell 610-608-4388.

TALENT IS PLENTIFUL AT THE 2015 PHOTO CONTEST

On Sunday, January 25, the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park, photographers, and passers-by gathered at the Hunting Hill Mansion to view the incredible photos on display from this year's 11th annual Friends of Ridley Creek State Park photo contest. The guests were not only treated to beautiful images of our beloved park, but were able to enjoy snacks and hot beverages.

As you walked around the photo display, it was amazing to see the familiar images from around the park as seen through an artist's eye. Though all of our photographers are considered amateur, the pictures they submitted were anything but. The sounds of debate among admirers as to where the photos were taken filled the hall, as did the many "Oh I know where that is" comments.

As you entered the mansion, the winding path to the new photo display was filled with photographs of years' past. Beautiful images of wildlife, waterways, and forests taken right here at Ridley Creek, a place we all get to enjoy every season of the year.

For this photo contest we worked hard to get new submissions. We always welcome as many people to participate as possible, including youth photographers. Though we did not receive any entries from our outreach efforts in the youth category, we have high hopes for next year. If you are reading this and you know a young one who loves to take pictures, please encourage him/her to take part.

We want to take a moment to thank David Case, a long time television photographer, who kindly served as the contest judge. David met with the contest entrants following the event to discuss their photos and



Bruce Lewis, Jenn Walker, Kenneth Rose, and Bob Hickey stand with their winning photos.

provide tips on what can catch a judge's eye so they can start thinking about next year's entry. We also want to give our thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event possible: from picking up supplies, to delivering food, to setting up and breaking down, we could not do this without all of you. So, thank you!

Here are the Adult Category winners:

1st Place was awarded to Bruce Lewis, for *White Trail in Winter*, an amazing photo that captures a tranquil, sunlit winter moment at Ridley Creek done in black and white. Contest judge David Case said it was the magic of the light captured in the photo that made you forget for a moment that there was no color. Also, the clarity of textures and focus, where you could see snowflakes creating their own design on the ground against the rippled water, just made for the perfect photo. Congratulations, Bruce.

2nd Place went to Jenn Walker for *Peaking Through*, a block of color from leaves heading straight for the lens, with everything behind it in focus, yet not fighting for attention. You could feel the

warmth in this photo. Nice job, Jenn.

3rd Place was awarded to Kenneth Rose for *Before Spring*. It's the perfect title for a mostly colorless photo except for a pop of green-gold from a rock - making us believe, despite the snow covered ground, that spring was on the way. Congratulations, Kenneth.

Honorable Mention went to Bob Hickey for his submission, *Hidden Treasure on the Blue Trail*. This photo makes you reminisce about times past. Looking at the photo you would have no idea it was taken just this past year. Beautiful photo, Bob.

All digital images that were submitted can be viewed on our website at:

<http://friendsofrcsp.org/>

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park would like to thank all photographers for their submissions and remind everyone to keep their shutterbugs active over the coming year and we'll see them in 2016!

This article was contributed by Friends member Lauren Bacigalupi.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR PPF's PHOTO CONTEST!

Calling all Photographers for PPF's Photo Contest!

In addition to the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park's Photo Contest, our parent organization, the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation (PPFF) has an annual photo contest. Here's another opportunity for you to enter and win with your pictures of our park, or, for that matter, any state park or

forest in Pa.

Photos must be submitted by noon on September 12, 2015 to ppffnewsletter@pa.net. Three prizes will be awarded in each of 6 categories, as well as Best in Show, Critic's Choice, and People's Choice. The categories are: Black & White; Capture the Seasons; Friends & Family Fun; Historical Gems; Nature Up Close;

Young Photographers (aged 10-21). So there are many opportunities to win an award!

Prizes will be state gift cards ranging in value from \$25 to \$75. For a complete list of rules, prizes, and submission details, go to

www.paparksandforests.org/photo_contests.html.

Looking for a Treasurer

There will be a vacancy on the Board of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park for the position of Treasurer, starting this June. The current Treasurer, Tim Higgins, is not seeking another two-year term for this year's annual election. Tim has admirably served two 2-year terms as of June 2015 and his work is much appreciated.

The Board is seeking a candidate to fill this position. It does not require a background in accounting, but basic bookkeeping skills are

helpful. A computer and basic computer skills are necessary to successfully do the job. The position requires about 10 hours a month and at least one trip each month to the park office. Deposits are processed and sent to Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation (PPFF) at Camp Hill, Pa. as necessary. Check requests, after Board approval, are sent to the park manager for approval. In the past, quarterly reports have been issued to the Board and an annual reconciliation is sent to PPF.

Interested candidates should contact the Board through our website:

members@friendsofrcsp.org.

TENTH-MILE MARKERS REPAINTED ON MUT

In 2013 we hired a contractor to restore the tenth-mile markers on the Multi-Use Trail. But you may have noticed that they started fading after a year or so. We contacted the contractor and were pleased that he agreed to repaint them at no extra cost to us. They have recently been restored.

As a user of the MUT, how do you like the tenth-mile markers? Do you use them? Would you miss them if they were not restored?

Please send us feedback to our website: members@friendsofrcsp.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY TRAIL WORK. MEET AT PARK OFFICE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9AM.

FREE PICNIC FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS AND TRAIL WORKERS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 NOON. MEET AT PAVILION 14

DEADLINE FOR PPFF PHOTO CONTEST. SEE PAGE 5

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12