

# The Pennypacker\*

The Voice of the Friends of Pennypack Park



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215-934-PARK

[www.balford.com/fopp/](http://www.balford.com/fopp/)

OCTOBER 2006

\* Sample newsletter - Edited for public viewing

## OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:30 P.M. AT THE LAFAYETTE - HOLY REDEEMER CENTER, 8580 VERREE ROAD (NORTH OF RHAWN STREET).**

**THE SPEAKER FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY LYNN ABRAHAM AND SHE WILL SPEAK ABOUT LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES THAT EFFECT THE COMMUNITY. COME OUT AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND SPEAK WITH OUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE MEETING.**

## **SEPTEMBER CLEANUP**

By Karen and Nance

Well, we prevented another cancellation today. We had a bit of a scare when a cloudburst passed just at 10 am. Some regulars even came late fearing a wasted trip. Yet Mother Nature was kind or she just wanted the ball field behind Nazareth Hospital on Holme Avenue cleaned, we don't care, we had 25 volunteers at the ready and 28 bags of trash and other stuff to get.

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The twenty-five volunteers contributed fifty-nine volunteer hours. First the two Leos (yeah, they were as shocked as us, two Jims we see all the time, 2 Leos, priceless), the families: the Coughlin family, the Kaser family, the Mortimer family, we had the Huntingdon Valley Riders and Drivers Association: Marlene and one of the aforementioned Leos, Kathleen (who was walking to the store when she saw us and stopped to help, thank you), Teddy, Andrew, Lorraine (a novice to cleanups, please come back), Vince and Susan (thanks Vince for allowing Jim to abscond with Susan for a little bit to cleanup Winchester and Narvon), Rich, the two Jims (as usual taking everyone's complaints to forward to the proper authorities, hey it's a 1700+ acre park nobody can patrol every corner 24/7 that's why we tell you to call 215-934-PARK), Norma and Ken, Karen, and Nance.

The trash haul was 28 bags, 1 bag of cans (hey, you really didn't expect us to do 5 bags of cans 2 months in a row?), 2 empty kegs (at \$10 a pop when they're turned in as good as the 5 bags of cans -- thanks Andrew!), 34 cents, there were plenty of 40 ounce bottles and 1/5 Dewar's bottles, a propane tank and bottle of barbecue sauce (surprise this would be the month we don't find a barbecue grill and raw pork chops, otherwise we would have been eating good and splitting the one unopened can of Milwaukee's Best), a lighter, a piece of a catalytic converter, a hubcap, miscellaneous car parts, wire wheel cover, piece of metal piping, since we were near a hospital a piece of breathing apparatus, pieces of a hollow core door, a piece of wood fencing, a broken end table, a mutilated resin chair (would it be a cleanup without a resin chair?), a paint can, a broken granny cart, an air conditioner, a shovel head, a beach chair, a metal seat from an old porch chair, 2 feet of metal piping, a cell phone case, an empty wallet (we're rather sure the owner didn't do it), a good day for men's clothing: a pair of painter's pants, boxer shorts, 2 pair of socks, 2 t-shirts, and a Father Judge Football t-shirt (and here you are going shopping), since we were at a ball field we found the obvious -- 5 baseballs, 1 golf ball, 1 tennis ball, a broken chessboard, 1/2 fishing rod and fishing vest, and finally the honor of the piece de resistance goes to the Coughlin family who found a concrete pelican head.

If you think this was fun, wait until next month when we double team with Jackie and her crew at Torresdale and Enfield (well, Torresdale where the creek crosses it between Enfield and Rhawn) from 10 am to 1 pm. We'll bring the gloves, equipment, and the famous oatmeal cookies. You bring yourself and a friend. If you need to contact us call 215-934-PARK.



### **KREWSTOWN – SEPTEMBER 2006**

By Alan

As I was looking for sites to plant some trees it occurred to me as I was getting some water from the hose behind the District 4 building that I didn't have to look any further as the area behind that building desperately needed some trees. There is plenty of open area barren of trees, mostly overgrown with invasive vines. The road leading to the area and the front of the building is nicely planted, but the back needed some work. After clearing the weeds from about a 5 foot diameter area for each tree, I planted 3 tulip poplars then watered and

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mulched them. I don't want to go overboard on the trees as I don't know if the deer will eat them, but I have some wire that I will use to protect them.

While in the area I found a perfectly good push broom in the weeds, but the find of the month was a black rubber frog I found in the road. This species is not typically found in the park, as it prefers to be around little boys, but it is well adapted to asphalt roads, using its unique black coloration to camouflage itself from predators (like the plastic owl and rubber snake). Its rubber body makes it impervious to most car tires and if buried won't decompose for an eternity ensuring its existence forever.

Enough nature talk, as I have to get busy and do a good trash run. With fall coming, the leaves will start to cover the litter in the park making it hard to find some of those bottles and cans until the springtime.

### **RESTORATION VOLUNTEER DAY**

By Roland

SATURDAY, OCT. 14<sup>th</sup>, will be a special Restoration Day! Come to Fox Chase Farm and help us plant large balled and burlapped trees. This will be a continuation of our work to convert unused pastureland into a grove of native hardwoods. Those of you who worked with us at this site last year recall the great satisfaction we all felt as each tree went into the earth. Tree planting is good for the soul! Each new tree is a gift to future generations.



Come join us for this worthwhile project! The work will be lightened by having the holes already dug and waiting for us.

Starting time is 10 A.M. Park on Pine Rd. or the farm lane. Follow the signs to the work site. Tools, gloves, and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call our Volunteer Coordinator, Jackie.

### **RECYCLING**

By Alan

What luck! The rain stopped early in the morning just so we would have a nice day to recycle. Trucks were a little late due to mechanical problems, but things went smoothly once they arrived. Volume is down, like it was in July and August, but collections are still high enough that it is beneficial for us to continue.

There is still no sign that construction started at Lincoln, except for removal of the fencing around the tennis courts. Apparently the contractor forgot about some permits.

We had an interesting situation this day. It seems that a visitor of one of the recyclers stashed their cashed paycheck into a bag of papers as a hiding place unbeknownst to the person who dropped it off to us. We had to pull the first paper truck out of service about 10:30, but it was getting full anyway. Details for recovering the funds were worked out with the driver and the dispatchers, then both the truck and the other party left. What happened was that the truck went to the sanitation yard to dump its load and the people sifted through the

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bags to find it. Unfortunately only \$140 was recovered out of \$1,100. There was however something else found. A necklace with a religious medal attached. If anyone lost one call the park line to claim it.

On a related issue, sometimes we have to guess what goes and what doesn't from someone's trunk or back seat. We sometimes work at feverish paces and make split second decisions on what to take. My recommendation is to drape an old sheet or towel over the items in your car before placing your bags in. This way it will be clearer to the volunteer what goes and what doesn't.

Volunteers – please remember to sign the volunteer release located on the book table. That way we know who came, who to thank and you'll make our lawyer happy. For those who signed in – and for a few who didn't - thanks to: Allison, Andrew, Bernard & Lovey, Bob, Cheryl, Don, Chuck, Dottie, Hal, Hasan, Heidi, Florence, Frank E., Frank M., Irv, Jim, Joyce, Judi, Karen, Ken and Norma, Kevin, Leo, Mary Ellen, Nance, Linda & Phil, Mimi, Roland, Shirley, Sol, Ted, Lincoln student Michelle, and Streets Dept. personnel Darryl, Jim, and George.

### **GATOR PATROL**

The Gator Patrol is the trash removal crew of the Trees and Trails Committee. Our work parties are scheduled for Friday mornings, weather permitting. Outings are suspended when tree planting and tree watering activities are being conducted.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Nbr. of work parties	4	22
Nbr. of volunteer hours	49	209
Nbr. of bags of trash	57	390

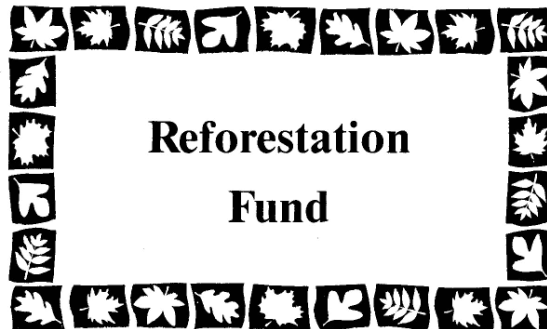
Gator Patrol Members are Richard, Bill, Nance, and Jim, other participant this month was Ross.

### **REFORESTATION FUND**

#### **TRIBUTE CARDS**

By Sheila

This fund was initiated back in January of 1995. We couldn't have imagined how important it would become to the welfare of our Pennypack Park. It has allowed us to plant many trees, flowers, and also to do important projects to improve our park. Your generosity has been overwhelming and the feedback we receive about the cards by many has been most complimentary.



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Think of us when there's an anniversary, birthday, any type of occasion, and also In memory of a dear person. Application is available at the web site.

### **WHY BIRDING IS NOT MY HOBBY**

We birders are "different". As fall approaches we do not bemoan the passing of summer and the coming of winter. Instead we look forward to seeing birds of the far north which migrate through the Pennypack Valley, or stop to spend the winter here among us. Want to see a Northern Loon? You can either travel to the wilds of Canada or wait for Loons to arrive at our own Pennypack on the Delaware in December.

Yes, we birders are different in the way we relate to the natural world. Ironically, if asked to list my hobbies, birding would not be among them for this reason: serious birding expresses the connection between us and something far greater than us, something we are a part of and which is a part of us.

Serious birding connects us to something mysterious and immortal in nature. And in expressing this connection we are exercising and nurturing something equally mysterious and immortal within ourselves. After all, we have not only a biological connection to nature, but a spiritual one as well.

Something deep within nature calls to something deep within us. We Pennypackers are fortunate to have this magnificent park we can go to in response to that call! Of course, we birders go to wild places like our park in response to that call, which we hear in the voices of birds. Birds, more than any other wild things, seem to embody the spirit of wild places. I for one believe that the soul of nature sings through the throats of birds!

The religious among us would not call a visit to a house of worship "entertainment". And for serious birders, as for poets and artists whose life work is inspired by nature, our immersion in the natural world is much more than a hobby!

### **4-H – MORE THAN YOU EVER IMAGINED**

Rabbits & Cavies (Guinea Pigs), Chinchillas, Ferrets, Hedgehogs, Gerbils, Hamsters, Rats, Mice . . . Fish (Aquarium & Stream), Cats, Dogs . . . Seeing Eye Puppies . . . Poultry & Embryology, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Pot Bellied Pigs, Horses & Ponies, Llamas & Alpacas, Sheep, Goats, Swine, Dairy & Beef Cattle . . . or Environmental (Recycling & Composting), Gardening, Horticulture, Apiary (Bees & Honey) . . . or Photography, Crafts, Sewing, Needlework, Crocheting, Cross-stitching, Quilting, Scrap booking, Theatre . . . or Carpentry & Construction . . . or Rockets! If you've heard that 4-H is for *farm families*, you've only heard *part* of the story.

In 1902, 4-H was created to introduce youth to basic farming. But, you needn't be a farm kid or own a farm animal. You don't even need to own a pet. Anyone age 8 to 18 may participate in 4-H in many areas of interest; and young children Pre-K through age 7 can participate in Cloverbuds. For your Head, your Heart, your Hands, and your Health – join 4-H because . . . it's more than you ever imagined!

4-H is a youth development education program of the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service. It is a non-formal education program for youths between ages 5 and 19. Its mission is to help young people become self-

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directed, productive, and contributing members of a diverse society. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

### **IN TRIBUTE TO A GENTLE MAN**

By Sheila

This organization has some of the finest people as members that I've been privileged to know in my lifetime. One of them was Harvey Hamilton, who was both a gentleman and a gentle man. When volunteers were asked to water the 30 new young trees that were planted at the Verree Road Tot Lot in the Summer of 1999, Harvey was one of the first to respond. He was there constantly watering his Red Oak tree that he had adopted. You might have noticed it by the ribbons that bedecked it that summer. Harvey was such a fun person to know. When he drove up in his red Mustang convertible, he loved surprising everyone. Being in his 80's made it even sweeter for him to savor. So Harvey, may your new journey be as meaningful as the one you spent with us on earth.

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE  
NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE PENNYPACKER:  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24.**

### **LAST OF SUMMER**

While on the first day of September and still the summer season.  
The occurring rains make cold the night air almost freezing.  
Drops fall out of clouds from up high and play like a quiet drummer.  
As the trees sweep in the wind  
I'm reminded after it clears will continue summer.  
Then the shades of green after finished growing  
will display new colors with autumns showing.

Ed D.  
Sep. 1, 2006

### **JOGGING FOR POETS**

Take yourself along the many trails  
thankfully maintained  
for you and I  
by generous people you may  
know, who aid your  
passage along the path.  
Plant yourself beneath a tree  
for repose  
The roots surround you as if  
they were there  
to create for you a natural chair.

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With pencil and paper  
allow delayed emotions become alive.  
The gentle nudge of the tree is  
all you really need  
to be,  
a poet in every sense of the  
word.

Carol A.  
Sep. 6, 2006

### **OCTOBER EVENTS**

**Reforestation Day:** Sat. Oct. 14, 10 A.M. at Fox Chase Farm.

**Glen Foerd on the Delaware:** Tue. Oct. 17, evening tour at 7 P.M., admission \$8.00 and Fall Fundraiser "Wicked Good Time" Fri. Oct. 27, 7:30 to 11:30 P.M.

**Monthly Meeting:** Thur. Oct. 19, 7:30 P.M. at the Lafayette Retirement Center.

**Plastic & Paper Recycling:** Sat. Oct. 21, 9 A.M. to Noon, Rowland & Vista Sts.

**Applefest at Fox Chase Farm:** Sat. Oct. 21, (raindate: Oct. 22), 12 P.M. to 4 P.M. \$3.00 adults and children.

**Monthly Cleanup:** Sat. Oct. 28, 10 A.M. at Torresdale and Enfield.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Restoration Volunteer Day:** Sat. Nov. 11.

**Membership Committee:** Mon. Nov. 13.

**Monthly Meeting:** Thur. Nov. 16.

**Plastic & Paper Recycling:** Sat. Nov. 18.

**Glen Foerd on the Delaware:** Tue. Nov. 21, evening tour at 7 P.M., admission \$8.00 and a Victorian Tea with Father Christmas, Sat. Dec. 2, 11 A.M..

Now you can visit FOPP at our web site at [www.balford.com/fopp/](http://www.balford.com/fopp/).

**PROBLEM LOCATIONS:** If you know of any problem location in the park, vandalism, water pollution, dumping or drinking parties, call Jim on the Park Phone, 215-934-PARK, to identify the problem location. If something needs immediate action, call 911.

**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK:** Please send us your opinions or concerns regarding the Pennypack Park. Letters will be printed in the newsletter for the perusal of our general membership. Have a thought, idea or recommendation? Send it to: The Friends of Pennypack Park, P.O. Box 14302, Philadelphia, PA 19115, Attn: The Newsletter Editor. Please try to limit your comments to less than 300 words.

