

# The Natural Observer

*News from the Governor Dick Environmental Center*



*Spring, 2020*

## **NOTICE!**

Effective at least through the end of March the Environmental Center and the Tower are **CLOSED** due to cautions about the corona virus. Programs and hikes that were scheduled for the rest of March are cancelled and/or postponed. Our website and Facebook page will keep you up to date with what is happening. Trails will remain open.



to Dr. Doug Becker!



Doug with his family

## **Changes**

Due to circumstances beyond his control, longtime Board member Chuck Allwein has resigned the position he has held on the Board of Directors since 2006. As in the picture below, he kept a close eye on all the projects that went on in the Park, making sure everything was done just right. His wisdom as a business man was much appreciated, and we will miss his input during the meetings and his presence in the Park. We all wish you the best, Chuck!



We welcome Doug to the Governor Dick Park Board of Directors, filling the vacancy left by Chuck Allwein. Doug and his family reside in Bernville in Berks County. Doug has an educational background in biology, wildlife and fisheries science, and forest resource science and is a professor at Lebanon Valley College in Annville. In addition to monthly board meetings, Doug will work closely with the Park's forester to implement the requirements of our Forest Stewardship Plan. We are excited to have someone with Doug's knowledge and pleasant demeanor as part of the Governor Dick family!



Join our Artist in Residence Karen Beall on a journey into the woods in search of wondrous spring flowers and plants. After the hike, create a colorful nature-themed keepsake using clay and glaze. There will be two sessions available: May 16 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and an afternoon session from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. This will be held rain or shine. The keepsake will be available for participants to take home May 30 after they have been kiln-fired.

Group size is limited and reservations are required. No experience is necessary. Funding for this program is provided through a generous grant from the Mt. Gretna Arts Council and therefore there is no cost to participate.



Karen and her daughter, Nina

## WE VOLUNTEERS!

Maybe you have wondered just what there is to be done around here when we have a work morning. Our first “2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Work Morning” was held March 14 and nine eager helpers arrived ready to conquer the task list. The Tower was swept from the tippy top to the bottom and glass shards were picked up around it. The Interpretive Trail and its signs were cleared and cleaned and trail 4 was checked for branches and downed trees. Two benches were repaired. The rain garden was cleared of a mountain of leaves. Our posters were inventoried. Six bags of trash were picked up along Pinch Road and route 72. Our small staff could NEVER get it all done without the faithful and cheerful help of our VOLUNTEERS!

\*There will be no 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Work Morning in April because of the Easter holiday.



Spring is upon us and with the way time flies, summer will be here soon so start making plans to participate in our first annual Solstice Run June 21. This trail run will benefit our trails, public programming, and the upkeep of our facilities. Choose a 5k or 10k and celebrate the start of summer with us! To register online, go to <http://www.RunReg.com/solsticerun> or find the registration form on our webpage at [www.parkatgovernordick.org](http://www.parkatgovernordick.org). Be part of something fun while supporting the Park you love!



(picture courtesy Rockart Signs and Markers)

We are probably “preaching to the choir” with this newsletter, but please stay on the trails as they are laid out. Under no circumstances will the Board of Directors or staff condone the creation of new trails or side trails for users of the Park to have their thrill of jumping a boulder, log, or mound of soil. Many uncommon plants prefer to grow along the trails’ edges, various creatures live under the logs, and we do not want what should be single-track trails looking like freeways. Please help to keep Governor Dick Park beautiful for future generations!

## Did You Know???

You can still offer your support of Governor Dick Park by sponsoring a commemorative brick to be placed along the sidewalk in front of the Environmental Center. You can remember a family member, a good friend, or a pet, or put your own name there to let everyone know the Park has meant something special to you. Just log on to: <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/governordick> to easily place your order. Bricks are \$100 each and the proceeds go toward the maintenance of our facilities.



## Something to Look Forward to...

You will soon have an opportunity to become a *member* of Governor Dick Park! The membership form will be coming to you by the end of April, and we are excited to be offering “members only” hikes, discounts on programs, and other benefits. Through membership you gain the satisfaction of supporting a unique Lebanon County park. Stay tuned!



We are looking at dates with the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association to reschedule the Orienteering Event and Beginners Class that have been cancelled for March due to cautions about the corona virus. November is the month we are considering, and we will post that on our website and Facebook page as soon as a date is set.



photo courtesy Lee Wells

## Dinosaur Rock

We are often asked which trail should be taken to get to Dinosaur Rock. It is such a popular destination that we hand out maps to it (just ask in the office). However, Dinosaur Rock is located on State Game Lands 145 to the west of Governor Dick Park. From the Environmental Center it is about a 3-mile hike to Dinosaur Rock or you can park in the Game Lands parking lot just north of the PA Turnpike on Mt. Wilson Road. It is a very interesting geologic feature! Make yourself aware of the Game Commission’s land regulations and hunting seasons at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).



## Things to Do

**\*\*Hikes and programs are cancelled and/or postponed for March. Check our website for up-to-the-minute additions and changes.**

Please register for our events by calling the office and leaving your name and phone number clearly. You may also send us an e-mail.

March 19, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board meeting. **CANCELLED.**

March 22, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2-3 miles for hikers over age 50. CANCELLED

March 29, 10:00 a.m. – DVOA Orienteering event for all skill levels. Fee applies. CANCELLED

March 29, 11:00 a.m. – Beginning Orienteering class. CANCELLED

April 5, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

April 5, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. – Music by the Fireplace bluegrass jam. Pickers welcome!

April 12 – THE CENTER IS CLOSED FOR EASTER.

*April 16, 7:15 pm. – Monthly Board meeting.*

April 17, 10:00 a.m. – Toddlers in Tow: Animal Homes and Habitats. For children ages 2-5 years. \$5 per child.

April 18, 10:00 a.m. – Toddlers in Tow: Amphibians! For children ages 2-5 years. \$5 per child.

April 25, 1:00 p.m. – Wildflower Walk.

May 2, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Webelos “Into the Woods” workshop. \$10 per Scout.

May 3, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass jam. Pickers welcome!

May 3, 1:30 p.m. – Wildflower Walk.

May 9, 9:00 a.m. to Noon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Volunteer Work Morning.

May 9, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bouldering Clinic. Group size limited.

May 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Spring Benefit Concert. Bluegrass music. Donations to benefit the Park!

May 15, 10:00 a.m. – Toddlers in Tow: Discover Worms! For children ages 2-5 years. \$5 per child.

May 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m. and a second session 1:00-2:30 p.m. - “Spring Souvenir” Art Walk with a chance to create with clay.

*May 21, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board meeting.*

May 23, 10:00 a.m. – Pond Scoop. Group size is limited for this pond exploration. \$5 per person.

May 24, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2 to 3 miles for hikers over age 50.

May 30, 1:00 p.m. – Nature Journaling: The Faces of Flowers. Bring your own journal.

June 5 – Full Moon Hike. Time to be announced.

June 6, 1:00 p.m. – National Trails Day Hike.

June 7, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

June 7, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass jam.

**To contact us:**

\*Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick  
P.O. Box 161, Mt. Gretna, PA 17064

\*3283 Pinch Road, Lebanon, PA  
(diagonally across from the State Game Lands parking lot)

\*Phone: (717)964-3808

\*Email: [governordick@hotmail.com](mailto:governordick@hotmail.com)

\*Web: [www.parkatgovernordick.org](http://www.parkatgovernordick.org)

**Q. WHERE DO SAPLINGS GO TO LEARN?**

**A. ELEMENTREE SCHOOL!**