

# The Natural Observer

 *THE NEWS OF GOVERNOR DICK PARK* *SPRING, 2019*

## *Introducing...*



### **Sally Schach!**

Laid out on the forest floor for a “selfie” beside one of the first bloodroot flowers of spring is the newest employee of the Governor Dick Environmental Center. We had to bid “fare thee well” to Diana Sprucebank who was a familiar face in the Governor Dick forest for 13 years. Other interests and not enough time for everything have taken her from us.

Sally has been a volunteer at the Park for 5 years. She developed our popular “Toddlers in Tow” program for little ones ages 2 to 5. She helps to teach the school groups that come to us for field trips. In addition to continuing to teach in those areas she will be in the office to answer questions and help people find their

way along the trails. She will lead hikes and facilitate programs as well as add her touch to our displays in the Center.

Sally is married to Jon, a master arborist for Good’s Tree Service and a volunteer for the park. They have two children, Sylvia and Brook and live just a couple miles from Governor Dick.

Stop by the office on weekends to give her your warm welcome!!

## *What is it?*



If you have come to the Environmental Center recently, you may have noticed something that looks like a lemonade stand – but it isn’t. This is an Eagle Scout project being constructed by Corbin Snavelly from Lititz for our “Plant a Legacy” program. We will have white spruce seedlings available soon for you to pick up and take along on your hike here at Governor Dick Park. You will choose a place to plant it (and

# Governor Dick Environmental Center

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we will have an instructional brochure for you), imagining your little seedling as a fully grown tree in the future, your legacy tree. You will be part of the initiative to renew and sustain the health of our forest by planting trees to replace those we are losing to pests, disease, and old age. (Deer will not browse white spruce.) We hope to plant 10,000 trees all over the park with your help!



**The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.**

*Harriet Ann Jacobs*

**National Trails Day, June 1, 2019  
and  
15 Years!**

Every year on the first Saturday in June the American Hiking Society, a non-profit based in Maryland, celebrates trails with events hosted by parks all over the country. We are going to recognize National Trails Day AND the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Environmental Center's creation with a 15K (9.5 miles) hike in the Park. The hike will begin at 10:00 a.m. Bring water and snacks. We'll take a break midway and enjoy the forested legacy Clarence Schock gifted to everyone in the Lebanon area.

*Spring*

**Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.**

~W. Earl Hall



## **Boardwalk Nearing Completion**

It won't be too much longer before our ADA-accessible boardwalk is open. The railing must be completed as well as some finishing touches and cleanup and then it will be ready for use. What a special place this will be for those with limited mobility, and others, to enter the forest and experience its many benefits! We are excited to see the interest people have shown in this project so far, and we are anxious for its completion. The waterless restroom is the last phase of the work, and we hope that work will be done by the end of June. The picture below shows the new parking area and the new sidewalk leading back to the Environmental Center. The restroom will be positioned to the left of our building.



photo courtesy of Lee Wells

The memorial bricks will be placed along the sides of the sidewalk (don't forget to get yours!)

<https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/governordick>

**Please** remember this boardwalk is for foot travel and wheelchairs **only**. **No bicycles!**

# Governor Dick Environmental Center

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to Harry Brown for donating bird seed. As of this writing purple finches are here, and the pileated woodpeckers are visiting the suet. Thanks, Harry, for caring for our feathered friends.

## Things to Do

All programs are free unless stated otherwise. Meet at the Environmental Center on Pinch Rd.

**Registration is required:** call 964-3808 or e-mail [governordick@hotmail.com](mailto:governordick@hotmail.com).

May 1, 10:00 a.m. – Wellness Wednesday Fitness Hike. Faster 3 miles.

May 4, 9:00 a.m. – Bird Walk.

May 4, 1:00 p.m. – Wildflower Walk.

May 5, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch.

May 10, 10:00 a.m. – Toddlers in Tow Find Insects!

May 11, 9:00 a.m. – Noon- Volunteer Work Morning.

May 11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Webelos Scouts “Into the Wild” Workshop. \$5 per Scout. Pack lunch. Must be registered.

May 12, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike. Faster 4-6 miles.

May 15, 10:00 a.m. – Wellness Wednesday Fitness Hike. Faster 3 miles.

*May 16, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board meeting.*

May 18, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bouldering Clinic. Learn to climb! RAIN DATE May 19.

May 18, 1:00 p.m. – Insect Safari family program.

May 19, 1:30 p.m. – Flower Foray.

May 25, 1:00 p.m. – Nature Journaling. No experience needed!

May 26, 1:30 p.m. - Golden Eagle Hikers. 2-3 miles for folks over age 50.

June 1, 10:00 a.m. – National Trails Day 15K hike.

June 2, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass jam.

June 5, 10:00 a.m. – Wellness Wednesday Fitness Hike. Faster 3 miles.

June 16, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike. Faster 4-6 miles.

*June 20, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board meeting.*

June 23, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2-3 miles for hikers over age 50.

June 30, 2:00 p.m. – A Snake’s Birthday. Snoop is turning 4!

### To contact us:

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

\*3283 Pinch Rd., 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)