

# The Natural Observer

*The News of Governor Dick Park  
Summer! 2017*



*Happy summer to all! May you  
have lots of opportunities to get  
outdoors!*



Everybody needs a home!

This eastern ratsnake chose a cozy home for itself. For several weeks it was a cooperative neighbor, showing itself to many schoolchildren and families.

*Don't ever question the value of  
volunteers. Noah's ark was built by  
volunteers; the Titanic was built by  
professionals. ...anonymous*



Photo by Bill Powell

Wait! Who's Bill Powell? Bill is one of our newest volunteers and he's joined us as an office naturalist. We no longer will have to close the nature center when we lead programs outdoors as he will be behind the desk with a friendly smile. You may see his camera close by – he doesn't miss a chance to snap some pictures. Be sure to say "hi" to him when you see him.



## Governor Dick Environmental Center

### *Hike to Health*

Our first annual Hike to Health event on June 17 was held in collaboration with WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon and was a great success. We offered hikes, classes in yoga, geocaching, bouldering, healthy grilling, art, and edible plants. There were games, face painting, food, and a variety of health information. The sky threatened to dampen our fun, but the rain waited until the event was finished. Hike to Health would not have been possible without the help of the following dedicated volunteers:



Duane & Erin Johnson, geocaching



Luke Lindeman, bouldering

Luke even showed up at the park at **5 a.m.** the day before so he could be on WGAL's news with Hannah McDonald! That's dedication!



Sheila Cohen, Paint in Nature

...and Bill in the office...and out of the office...and helping wherever a hand was needed.

A special **Thank You!** to WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital for working with us to make this event possible.



They provided an ambulance and capable crew which was not needed but ready just in case.



They handed out granola and bottled water.



## Governor Dick Environmental Center

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From Governor Dick is Audrey Wells, on the left, pictured with (from L to R) Melanie Wells, Amy Walsh, and Cindy Stauffer from WellSpan. This group planned the Hike to Health event.

Melanie was also the instructor for the yoga class at the tower.



Trevor Sipe taught healthy grilling.  
Thanks to all who had a part in this day!

**WE ♥  
VOLUNTEERS!**

Following are pictures of more activities that simply would not happen without volunteers.



April's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday crew cleaned up trash along route 72 and collected that pile in 1 ½ hours!



Mark Frank from the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association taught a class in April while an orienteering event was going on outside.



Nielson Corporation

## Governor Dick Environmental Center

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Every spring Nielson sends a group to help the park. Nine willing workers cleared brush from a deer enclosure fence in May.

June's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Work Day brought out 13 eager workers who went in all directions to trim trails and areas around the parking lot. Unfortunately, we didn't get pictures.



### BOARD MEETING

Our Board of Directors are volunteers as well. Thank you for serving: Ray Bender, Chairman; Dave Eichler, Vice Chairman; Tom Harlan, Treasurer; Frank Eichler; Harry Diehl; and Chuck Allwein.

Below is our calendar of programs. Follow our website to stay up to date. Event dates are subject to change.

## Things to Do

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).

July 1, 1:00 p.m. – A Snake's Birthday. Learn about snakes. Eat cupcakes in honor of Snoop's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Must be registered.

July 2, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike. Fast-paced 4 to 6 miles.

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

July 7, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Children ages 2 to 10, \$5.

NO VOLUNTEER WORK DAY IN JULY.

July 9, 1:30 p.m. – Penny Hike. A flip of a coin determines which way we go!

July 12, 10:30 a.m. – Wednesday Wings & Things. Nature walk.

July 14, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Children ages 2 to 10, \$5.

July 15, 1:30 p.m. – Teddy Bear Hike. Bring your favorite stuffed bear! Hike, craft, snack. \$5.

July 16, 2:00 p.m. – Summer Botany & Butterfly Walk.

*July 20, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly board meeting.*

July 21, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Children ages 2 to 10, \$5.

July 22, 1:00 p.m. – Backyard Biologists: A Walk with Butterflies. Children's program. \$5.

July 23, 1:30 p.m. – Senior Walkabout. Meet at the Environmental Center.

July 28, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Children ages 2 to 10, \$5.

Aug. 4, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Children ages 2 to 10, \$5.

Aug. 6, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

Aug. 6, 1:00 -4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass music jam.

Aug. 12, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Volunteer Work Day.

## Governor Dick Environmental Center

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Aug. 12, 10:00 a.m. – Damsels & Dragons (flies, that is). Starts at Environmental Center with optional carpool to local pond.

Aug. 17, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly board meeting.

Aug. 26, 1:00 p.m. – Backyard Biologists: Get Buggy! Insect safari. Children's program, \$5.

Sept. 3, 9:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

Sept. 3, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass music jam.

Sept. 9, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Volunteer Work Day.

Sept. 9, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Intro to Bouldering Class. RAIN DATE Sept. 10.

Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m. – Wednesday Wings & Things nature walk.

Sept. 14 through Oct. 26, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Hands On Nature Preschool Class Fall Series. Space is limited; you must register for the series.

Sept. 20, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Homeschool Field Day.

**There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature. Aristotle**

### **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)

*Here's an article from a newsletter from the summer of 2009.....*

## SETON WATCHING

Ernest Thompson Seton was a Canadian naturalist and writer born in 1860. He founded the Woodcraft Indians, an outdoor youth program that later joined with other groups to become the Boy Scouts of America. Seton would sit quietly for long hours letting himself become a part of nature.

You can practice "Seton watching", too, with patience.

*Act small* – Become as insignificant as possible so animals cannot detect you.

*See small* – Look for nature's small creatures. There are more of them than large mammals.

*Think big* – It is fascinating to think about the role small creatures play in the "big picture" of forest life.

*Learn more* – Identify what you see and read about how they live.

What a great way to relax at the end of a work week! With patience you may be one of those fortunate enough to have a bird land on your head or have a chipmunk run across your shoes. A woman once had a beaver curl up in her lap as she sat without a sound! You will be able to observe birds and animals going about their natural routines and gain the satisfaction of having been a part of it.

