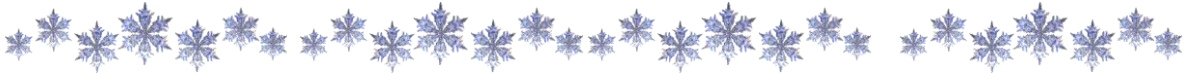


The Natural Observer

The News of Governor Dick Park **WINTER UPDATE 2017**



The Great Backyard Bird Count

Grab your binoculars! The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up! This free, fun, and easy event engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Birdwatchers count birds for as little as 15 minutes or all day long if they wish on one day or all four days of the count and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. From beginning birdwatchers to experts, all are welcome to take part in the count by watching birds at feeders, visiting a park, or walking in your neighborhood.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society review the checklists submitted. They learn about bird populations and how to protect birds and their valuable habitats.

The 20th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017. At Governor Dick we'll count birds Saturday, February 18 starting at 9 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them. We'll have field guides on hand. It's a great way to learn about birds and to begin to identify them since there are far fewer of them in winter and no leaves on the trees to hide them!

Wednesday Wings and Things

Beginning in April we're offering a new midweek program for anyone who desires to learn more about the ecology of the forest and to identify plants and creatures that live here. The first walk of the year will be on April 12 at 10:30 a.m., and we'll look for birds and signs of spring, stopping to observe anything that catches our eyes. This is a great program for those who keep a nature journal and it will be a relaxing way to break up a hectic week. We will offer Wings and Things once or twice a month through November.



Gray foxes, which have the ability to climb trees, have been found in abandoned hawk's nests some 60 feet above the ground.

NATURE IS AMAZING!

Back by Popular Demand! Hands On Nature!

On April 6 we will launch another 9-week session of our nature immersion program for children ages 2 to 5. No matter what the weather (as long as it's not storming) we'll immerse ourselves in nature. We'll see how all living things are connected and how we are a part of nature. Your child's curiosity about the natural world will be stimulated as they learn to respect all life. They will develop gross motor skills while hiking, climbing, balancing, playing games, jumping, and running in the woods.

The environment provides endless opportunities for inquiry. Anything that brings up a question or invites curiosity leads to further exploration. This is delight-directed learning, following the child's lead in the things she is interested.

Through creative play children improve concentration, develop problem solving skills, learn teamwork and cooperation, and improve fine motor skills. We will identify plants, birds, insects, and animals, tell stories, observe the weather, adopt a "sit spot," use art expression, and more.

The cost is \$75 for the 9-week session, and a sibling may attend for a reduced rate of \$60. We will meet Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Snacks will be provided. The class is limited to 10 children. If you are interested, call the office or send an e-mail. We will get a registration form to you.



Basic Boating Course: March 25, 2017

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

This course meets the PA requirements for boating safety certificates which are required of anyone who operates a personal water craft. Children 10 and up may attend accompanied by an adult. Donation requested. Registration is required. Please register before March 23.



Hikers over the age of 50 are again invited to join us once a month for our **Senior Walkabouts**. In fact, there will be a walkabout February 26 if trail conditions permit.

WE VOLUNTEERS!

We invite all volunteers beginning in March to our 2nd Saturday Volunteer Work Day. Governor Dick Park simply can't get by without our helpful volunteers. If you would like to join our volunteer corps, call or e-mail the office and we'll send you a packet of information. Trail maintenance and tidying up around the outside of the Center are two things we'll work on in March.

Governor Dick Environmental Center

We have four special events in February. The Environmental Center will open again on weekends beginning in March and in April we will be open Wednesday through Sunday.



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.

Feb. 5, 1 to 4 p.m. – Music by the Fireplace. Program will cancel if roads are slippery or it's snowing.

Feb. 10, 6 p.m. – Cabin Fever Hike by the Light of the Moon. Cookies and cocoa in the Center after the hike. \$5 per person or \$15 for families of 4 or more. Snowy weather or icy trails will cancel the hike. **Make sure you register with your name and phone number.**

Feb. 16, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting.

Feb. 18, 9 a.m. – Great Backyard Bird Count. Bundle up and join in the bird count. No experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m. – Senior Walkabout for hikers over the age of 50.

March 5, 9 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

March 5, 1 to 4 p.m. – Music by the Fireplace.

March 11, 9 to 11 a.m. – 2nd Saturday Volunteer Work Day.

March 16, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting.

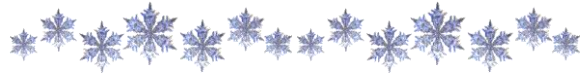
March 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Boating Safety Course. This is rescheduled from the original April 8 date.

March 25, 1 p.m. – Backyard Biologists. Geared for children ages 6 to 10 but younger children may also attend. \$5 per child.

March 26, 1:30 p.m. – Senior Walkabout – 2 to 4 miles for hikers over the age of 50.

*There is a DVOA-sponsored orienteering event on April 9 at 10 a.m. and a beginner's class at 11 a.m. Mark your calendar!

Calendar subject to change. Check our website for up-to-the-minute information.



Q: How many different mammal species are there in Pennsylvania?

A: There are 66 species (according to the PA Game Commission).

To contact us:

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