

The Natural Observer

Summer, 2018

Newsletter of Governor Dick Park



CONGRATULATIONS, KATIE & MIKE!



(photo by Lee Wells)

On June 9 Katie Olinger and Mike Hartman were married during an outdoor ceremony here. Friends and family celebrated with them afterward with a small reception held inside the Environmental Center. Best wishes to you!



Did you know you are able to rent the big room in the Environmental Center? If you have a small event you wish to celebrate in beautiful surroundings, please contact Audrey in the office.



A cinnamon black bear mount is on loan to us from Dale Sanger of Lebanon. Black bears are not always black. They can be brown, reddish brown or cinnamon, and cream-colored, too. Stop by to visit this beautiful bear!



ADA-Accessible Boardwalk

Governor Dick Park has been awarded a \$175,000 grant through DCNR for the construction of an accessible boardwalk into the forest just south of the Environmental Center. This grant is half of the cost of the walkway, and you are invited to partner with us in giving the gift of nature to those less mobile. You can purchase a 4" x 8" memorial brick to be placed along the sidewalk leading to the start of the walkway. Remember a loved one, honor a friend, or express your support of the park. Memorial bricks may be purchased for \$100. Mini souvenir bricks (1.5" x 3" x 0.5") with felt backing are available for \$20. Purchased in addition to the 4 x 8 brick, they can be made to match it, or the souvenir brick may be purchased separately. It's perfect for home or office.

We will have a donor site linked to our website available in the next couple weeks, and you'll be able to make your purchase. Forms are available at the Environmental Center now, and you may stop by to get one. We will offer them for a limited time only so don't delay ordering your brick.

Construction begins this autumn.

Toddlers in Tow



playing Spring Bingo
...or is it "Grownups in Tow"? Either way, volunteer Sally Schach makes sure everyone has a great time outdoors learning about nature and exploring our trails. We'll be offering the toddlers program again in the fall.

Thank you, Laura Pendragon, for the photos!



checking out a salamander

**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**

WE VOLUNTEERS!



A hearty THANK YOU goes to Dick Turnbaugh for coming to mow grass on on a humid day when we needed help.

And THANK YOU, Dee Kissinger, for once again planting the flower barrels that beautify our sidewalk.



Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

~ Elizabeth Andrew



Mint Leaf Candy

- fresh mint leaves, washed and patted dry
 - 1 egg white or cup of water
 - 1-3 Tbsp. powdered sugar
 - 1-3 drops mint extra or vanilla, optional
1. Break open a fresh egg, discarding the yolk and saving the white. Beat until foamy and stiff. If not using egg white, add 1-3 drops of extract to a cup of water. (Extract may also be added to the egg white but really isn't necessary.)
 2. Dip the leaf in egg white. Or, dip the leaves in flavored water.
 3. Dust the leaves lightly with sugar.
 4. Set the leaves on wax paper to dry. They'll harden in about three hours. Another option is to bake them in a low, 200° oven until they're crisp.

Need some mint? We have an abundance in our garden. Stop by the office and we'll help you get some for your garden.

Who Are the Snakes of the Park?



Eastern Garter Snake

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis

This very common snake can be encountered anywhere in the park. It feeds on earthworms, toads, frogs, salamanders, insects, and mice.



Northern Ringneck Snake

Diadophis punctatus edwardsii

Secretive, this snake is usually on the move at night. It partially constricts its prey before swallowing it. Salamanders, worms, and slugs are part of its diet. (photo by Pierson Hill)



Eastern Milk Snake

Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum

Another secretive snake, it is often mistaken for the venomous copperhead snake. Too bad! The milk snake mainly feeds on rodents and is helpful to have around the home.



Eastern Ratsnake

Pantherophis alleghaniensis

Frequently seen in the park, they give many visitors a scare due to their length. They are commonly 4, 5, and 6 feet long. But don't worry. They are excellent rodent control and won't bother you if you let them alone.



Northern Water Snake

Nerodia sipedon sipedon

The park has little water so the water snake isn't often encountered. One was spotted near the retention basin a few years ago. Nasty tempered, this snake hunts for most of his food in the water. (photo by Jeffrey Pott)



Northern Redbelly Snake

Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata

Unfortunately, the only sighting of this species was a roadkill in the driveway. Known to live in forested areas, it feeds on slugs and worms. (photo by Art Carney4)

It has been a long time since anyone has reported a venomous snake on Governor Dick property. Years ago they would have been more common here.

If you've seen a snake at the park that isn't listed, let us know at the Center so we can add your sighting to our records.

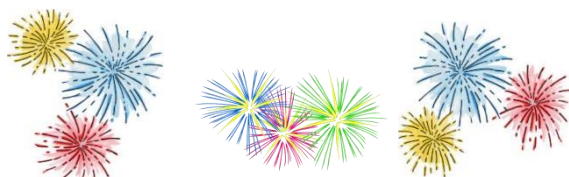
Didja know??? Snakes don't blink their eyes.

And then there's Snoop the Snake! She's a corn snake, not native to Pennsylvania but to the southeastern United States. Seen below hanging out with a park visitor, she'll celebrate her 3rd birthday on June 30th. You're invited to her party, but you must be registered so we're sure to have enough cupcakes!



(photo by Lee Wells)

THINGS TO DO



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

Registration is required: call 717-964-3808 or e-mail governordick@hotmail.com.

June 23, 9 a.m. – Nature Rx Walk.

June 23, 1 p.m. – Backyard Biologists: One Small Square of Forest. Family program. \$5/child.

June 24, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2 to 3 miles for hikers over the age of 50. *Meet at the route 117 parking lot.

June 29, 8 p.m. – Firefly Fun. Learn about the fascinating firefly. Some walking involved. \$10/family.

June 30, 1 p.m. – A Snake's Birthday. Snoop is turning 3! Must register!!

July 1, 8 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

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

July 7, 2 p.m. – Ant Antics family program. \$5/child.

July 13, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Story and nature walk. All ages welcome.

July 19, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting.

July 21, 9 a.m. to Noon – Volunteer Work Morning.

July 21, 1:30 p.m. – Nature Journaling: Seeing Nature. Fee charged.

July 22, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2 to 3 miles for hikers over the age of 50. Meet at the Environmental Center.

July 27, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Story and nature walk. All ages welcome.

July 29, 2 p.m. – Camouflage Capers. Learn about blending in and standing out. Family program. \$5/child.

August 4, 1:30 p.m. – Teddy Bear Hike. \$5.

August 5, 8 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

August 5, 1 – 4 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass jam.

August 10, 10:30 a.m. – Summer Story Forest. Story and walk for all ages.

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

August 18, 9 a.m. to Noon – Volunteer Work Morning.

August 18, 1:30 p.m. – Nature Journaling: Seeing Nature. Fee charged.

August 25, 1 p.m. – Backyard Biologists: Insect Safari. \$5 per child.

August 26, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2 to 3 miles for hikers over age 50. Meet at the Environmental Center.

Sept. 2, 9 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

Sept. 2, 1 to 4 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass jam.

Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Introduction to Bouldering Class. Class size limited.

Sept. 15, 9 a.m. – Noon – Volunteer Work Morning.

Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m. – Nature Journaling: Seeing Nature. Fee charged.

Sept. 20, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting.

Sept. 22, 10 a.m. – Flint Knapping Demonstration.

**Programming subject to change. Follow our website for up-to-the-minute program details.*

Contact us:

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