

The Natural Observer

News from the Governor Dick Environmental Center



Summer, 2020



Check out the quilt handmade by volunteer Sarah Shirk and donated to the Environmental Center. She was busy during the virus shutdown! Thank you to Sarah!



The Observation Honeybee Hive is Back!

Stop by the Center to visit with the honeybees and observe the queen bee hard at work. She can lay up to 2000 eggs in per day! She may be the queen, but she works hard!

WE VOLUNTEERS!

Did you know you could adopt a trail to maintain on a somewhat regular basis? You can choose how often you would like to walk your trail but at least once per season, picking up litter, reporting downed trees or other problems, and keeping the vegetation trimmed along the sides of the trail.

We have two new trail adopters. Ken Martin has adopted trails 13, 14, 14a, and 5 from route 117 to route 72. Thank you, Ken!

Ken Stehman has adopted trail 15. He pulled a lot of garlic mustard this spring (A LOT!) and is learning about other invasive plants so he can work with the Park in controlling them. Thank you, Ken!

With 16 miles of trails, a few extra hands are always needed to get the work done. On June 13 we had a total of 16 volunteers helping us catch up after the coronavirus stopped activities for a couple months. Trails were trimmed, soil was moved to and raked around the restroom, and a bench was repaired. Two rock climbers from Tennessee noticed the work going on and they wanted to help, too, to show their appreciation for a great Park.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

~Winston Churchill

An Importance Notice to Mountain Bikers



From Tim Finn, Trails Task Force

Hello Mountain Bikers!

I just want to pass along a friendly reminder regarding mountain bikes at Governor Dick.

Biking at Governor Dick is privilege that we cannot allow to be lost.

Governor Dick has a lot of fun trails and features. However, only some of the trails at Governor Dick are for bikes and fewer yet for horses.

Mountain bikers are jeopardizing our access to ride on Governor Dick because of misuse and riding trails that are designated as foot travel only.

SAMBA has recently launched an awesome map that will show you all of the trails for mountain bikes: <https://sambatrails.bike/> Please familiarize yourself with this map.

We need to stop widening trails to hit new features, creating new trails, and riding foot-travel only trails like 12, 13a, 14A, 14, and the handicap-accessible boardwalk by the Environmental Center. In addition, all users need to stay off the trails when they are wet to let them dry. Unfortunately, the amount of tire tracks proves that we need to do better in this area.

If the misuse of the park does not stop immediately, the Board will close the entire mountain to mountain bikes. Currently, we have a Trails Task Force working on ideas to prevent this from happening.

~Tim Finn

The Tower could be opening sometime in the next two weeks. Go to our website or Facebook page for information.



“Plant a Legacy”

Be part of the forest legacy at Governor Dick Park by planting a white spruce seedling. They can be found at the “Tree Nursery” in the middle of the parking lot at the Environmental Center. Trees are temporarily planted in the square bed close to the kiosk. Simply pull one out, take it along on your hike, and plant it at least 15 feet from a trail. We want to plant 10,000 of them!

Summer Benefit Concert

Gov. Dick Environmental Center

Outdoor Music

Sharon Barlet
on Fiddle

Pat Kline
on Mandolin & Guitar
playing Traditional, Folk, Old Timey

Porch Music

JULY 12

1-2:30PM

Benefits Clarence Schock Memorial Park at Governor Dick
3283 Pinch Rd, Mt Gretna, PA

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR.

Pat Kline leads our monthly Music on the Porch, and she and Sharon Barlet are hosting a fundraiser for the Park. Due to the coronavirus we lost income from the schools that usually have field trips in the spring. We anticipate making up for that loss through a fun afternoon of bluegrass music. Attendance is by donation and you can show your support for programming at the Park by your giving. This will be held at the bench area close to the parking lot. Bring a lawn chair!



A late winter music gathering (courtesy Pat Kline)

Environmental Center Trivia: We count everyone that comes through our doors! In 2019 that was close to 9,000 people, including school students and program attendees!



FOREST FABLE ART WALK

Join Artist-in-Residence Karen Beall in creating a permanent ceramic work of art for the Environmental Center. Rebecca Urban from Lebanon Valley College will share her knowledge of the different species of trees in the Park and after the walk, Karen will guide participants through the process of making individual clay tiles with bark, leaf, seed, and flower impressions of each tree.

There are two dates to choose from: October 3 or October 4, 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. All participants will then return on October 10 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. to complete the project. Group size is limited so be sure to register early. There is no fee for participating thanks to a generous grant from the Mt. Gretna Arts Council.

Things to Do



We are beginning to add some hikes and programs to our calendar! **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.

June 27, 1:00 p.m. - A Snake's Birthday! Snoop is turning 5 and her party will be held at our pavilion. You'll learn about snakes and enjoy refreshments. Please register so we're sure to have enough cupcakes.

June 28, 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2 to 3 miles for hikers over age 50.

The Environmental Center is CLOSED July 4th.

July 11, 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Volunteer Work Morning.

July 12, 1:00-2:30 p.m. – Summer Benefit Concert. Bluegrass music. Attendance by donation to benefit programming at Governor Dick Park.

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

July 18, 1:00 p.m. – Nature Journaling: Nature's Treasure Map. \$5. Bring your own journal.

July 26, 1:30 – Golden Eagle Hikers. 2 to 3 miles for hikers over age 50.

August 8, 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Volunteer Work Morning.

August 9, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

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

August 22, 2:00 p.m. – Insect Safari Family Program.

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

Sept. 6, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Music on the Porch bluegrass jam. Bring a lawn chair.

Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Bouldering Clinic. Learn to climb the boulders and be ready for November's competition! All ages welcome. Group size limited.

Sept. 13, 8:00 a.m. – Fitness Hike.

Sept. 17, 7:15 p.m. – Monthly Board meeting.

Sept. 18, 10:00 a.m. – Toddlers in Tow.

Sept. 19, time to be announced – Pawpaw Hike.

To contact us:

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