

A PUBLICATION OF
CHURCHVILLE NATURE CENTER

BUCKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS & RECREATION

The Dragonfly



Reconnect • Recharge
Renew

VOLUME 49 NO. 4

WINTER 2017

Reconnect



Recharge



Renew

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"I Come Here To Find Myself, It Is So Easy To Get Lost In The World"

John Burroughs

Volunteers Of The Year 2016

This year we would like to highlight two key volunteers here at Churchville Nature Center. Visitor Aide Mary Lloyd and Birder/Handyman Vince DeAntoniis by awarding them our 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Diane V. Sears, Coordinator of Volunteers

Mary Lloyd



Mary was born in Palo Alto, California, near where her father was stationed in the Army during WWII. Most of her childhood was spent with her parents and two brothers in Trenton, N.J.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, she worked there for a year in pediatrics. Then California called ("right back where I started from"). She lived there for about 10 year's while working in various nursing positions. One was as a United Airlines R.N. Stewardess for "Overwater Flights" From LA to Oahu and Hawaii.

Mary always wanted to teach nursing and pursued the necessary credentials. She received her Master's in Nursing from UCLA and then taught in the nursing program. While teaching, she continued her clinical practice and became involved in critical care nursing. She eventually moved back east and taught nursing at Holy Family and Jefferson. Mary then got a job with coordination of clinical trials while earning her PhD in Health Education at Temple.

After retirement from her full-time position, Mary was looking for a volunteer position, and she found CNC from a newspaper ad. She also worked in several part-time jobs, including a Telemedicine Clinic at Walmart, and teaching nursing.

Continued on Page 2

Vince DeAntoniis

Vince was born in Philadelphia at St. Agnes Hospital and went to Southern High graduating in 1963. He was drafted and spent 2 years as an army engineer driving a fuel truck in Vietnam. After leaving the service in 1967, he worked for PECO as a shift Manager for 28 years. He married his wife Diane, moved to Feasterville in 1971 and has two children Vince Jr. and Stephanie.

He liked to fish and as he likes to say; you might call him a tree hugger. He joined the Phoenix Swim club and was on the board as chairman of the pool committee.

After retiring from this position and playing tennis with a man who introduced him to birding, he met Nick Zahn, Ish, Sharon Furlong and the rest of the birding group at CNC. That's when he knew he was hooked on birding. He saw that help was needed here at the center and besides leading bird walks on Saturday mornings, he is juggling several grounds keeping projects throughout the year

Vince loves old movies, reading and history and up until 5 years ago was involved in organic gardening. Along with the other grounds keeping crew, you will find him putting most of his talents and resources into making CNC the great center it is.



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Volunteer Of The Year

Continued from Page 1

Mary Lloyd ...continued from page 1

One of Mary's hobbies was horseback riding. She was exposed to horses early, with pony rides on the beach in Atlantic City, and she rode throughout her life. She had a grade ("mutt" in dog language) horse named Abby, and they rode in Tyler State Park. Mary also loves cats, and she brought her first cat home from California--a stray named ShBoom. Presently, three rescued cats reside with Mary and her husband in their townhouse in Bensalem.

Mary married her husband, John Bailey, in 1986. His work and interests are anything pertaining to golf. John also enjoys the great outdoors, and he taught Mary the joy of feeding backyard birds.

A main interest now is in flower gardening, and Mary loves all she learns at Churchville that she can apply at home. She set a goal of attracting hummingbirds, and they visit regularly now.

Mary is grateful that she discovered the opportunity to be a volunteer aide on Thursday mornings. She feels honored to work at the center, where the other volunteers and staff are The Best and the visitors are fun and interesting.

Mary is responsible for up-dating our many files, and often drawing upon her own experiences brings fresh ideas to the center. Whether she is volunteering as a visitor aide or at one of our special events, she always demonstrates friendliness and community spirit to all who come in contact with her. We would like to recognize this special volunteer. Make sure you stop by to say hello and congratulate her.

Vince DeAntoniis...continued from page 1

You are invited to stop by any Saturday morning bird walk and join Vince as he and fellow birders engage in informal conversations about birding and life in our library. Vince is a hands on type of a guy and definitely a team player.

You will find him to be a laid back, easy going, witty guy with a personality, we call just plain charismatic. If you ask him what he does around the center, he says, "Whatever George says to do".

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Thank you to those who have generously made donations to our Annual Appeal

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2016 Christmas Bird Count Results

Many thanks to CNC's bird count team members for participating in this past years Audubon Christmas Bird Count on December 17. Although the weather wasn't good our group still had 57 species and a total of 1,657 individual birds. Highlights of the day were a great look at a Bonaparte's Gull, Bald Eagle, and 5 species of sparrows. CNC's next scheduled bird count / census will take place on Saturday May 13 for our Annual Migratory Bird Marathon

CNC Bird Count Team

Barbara Bennett	Vince DeAntoniis	Judy Hayman	Kevin Faccent	Sharon Furlong
Mike Lee	Dwight Molotsky	Maryann O'Leary	Chris Stieber	
Barbara Stollsteimer	Philip Stollsteimer	Chris Wyluda	Nick Zahn	

Results—57 Species Seen

Canada Goose	Bonaparte's Gull	American Crow	Gray Catbird
Mute Swan	Ring-billed Gull	Crow (sp)	Northern Mockingbird
Mallard	Herring Gull	Carolina Chickadee	European Starling
Bufflehead	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee
Hooded Merganser	Great Black-backed Gull	Chickadee (sp.)	American Tree Sparrow
Common Merganser	Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove/Pigeon)	Tufted Titmouse	Chipping Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Fox Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Belted Kingfisher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Winter Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Black Vulture	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Turkey Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle	Hairy Woodpecker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird	House Finch
Cooper's Hawk	Merlin	Hermit Thrush	American Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	Blue Jay	American Robin	House Sparrow

Way Back When: The Churchville Area

The first settlers of Northampton Twp. were English, then Dutch and the French Huguenots. In the late eighteenth century, there was a mix of ethnic and religious groups in the Northampton and Southampton region of Bucks County including Dutch Reformed, English Quakers, Baptist and Lutherans. The strong, but somewhat scattered group of Dutch reformed, comprised the largest concentration. It is these early Holland Dutch that brought their old country habits and long stemmed tobacco pipes with them to this country and being habitual smokers, the non-smoking settlers called the neighborhood "Smoketown". They also brought with them a deep love for religion and founded churches wherever they settled. The name was then changed to Churchville, perhaps because of all the churches.

In 1816, there was a post office, a church, and school house, a toll gate for the turnpike road, two blacksmith shops, a wheelwright shop, a hotel, store and a number of dwellings. The outskirts of town consisted of farmsteads surrounded by open agricultural land. (Only the hotel and toll house remain).

The original train station was constructed on Bristol Rd at Knowles Rd. Up until the twentieth century Northampton and Southampton region was almost exclusively agricultural. The soil was fertile, the land uniformly level with a well-defined slope to the south and southeast. The meadows produced abundant crops of hay which formed a staple product, much of which was hauled by farmers to Philadelphia. With the opening of the railroads in 1878, dairying became an increasingly important activity. Buildings and structures built from 1878 until the turn of the century were typically gothic revival from houses of 2 ½ stories and 3 bays, outbuildings such as carriage houses and garages. Churchville's development was predominantly influenced by the railroad.

In 1919 a farm owned by J. Cornell north of the Churchville train station was divided and developed. (This is the farm that *Edward Hicks*, the famous artist painted. "An Indian summer view of the Farm and Stock of James C. Cornell of Northampton County Pa. A new road named Cornell Ave was laid out. This road became one of the Country's first truly suburban streets.

Individual lots were sold, houses were erected and large trees were planted along the road. Which brings us up to the Churchville Nature Center's *Farm house* which will be our next installment of Way Back When.

*Look for more about the Cornell Family and its relationship to the Churchville Nature Center in up-coming Way Back When installments.



Through The Eye Of The Dragonfly

Winter Strategies

By Irene Safren, CNC Educator

As birds, some insects (and quite a few humans) head south to escape the coming winter, all those left behind must have a strategy to survive the harshest winter months.

Under deep snow, white footed mouse and vole tunnel through a hidden world, finding food on the ground beneath them while safe from the eyes of predators above. The red tailed hawk however, may find it difficult to fulfill its minimum daily requirement of rodent. Its keen vision can spot the movement of a mouse 1/2 mile away, but cannot penetrate the snowy fastness below. Squirrel and rabbit, however, are active topside and must keep a wary eye out for predators while seeking their own meal. Hawk, rabbit, squirrel - all are active throughout the winter. But what of other animals? (Limiting the answer, for brevity's sake, to some familiar mammals.)

THE HIBERNATORS

Play the old word association game and "hibernation" will almost always elicit the response "bear". However, they are not really true hibernators, as their temperature and breathing remain normal. In true hibernation pulse and respiration slow drastically and body temperature drops far below normal, a condition that has been described as a deep, helpless, death-like state. Included in this category are most of our bats, the beautiful little jumping mouse and the woodchuck, AKA groundhog. (one can only imagine the dazed confusion of poor old Punxsutawney Phil dragged blinking into bright daylight in the middle of winter.) Of the 11 species of bats in Pennsylvania, only 3 migrate. All of the others hibernate, including our most common one, the little brown bat.

THE SLEEPERS

With some animals the line between sleeper and snoozer can be a bit blurred. Chipmunks and bears, however, fit unreservedly into the former category. In fact, so soundly does our black bear sleep that the female gives birth to her tiny cubs without waking up. Great trick!

Bears put on a layer of fat to prepare for the lean months ahead. Not so for that engaging sprite the chipmunk, even though they spend the winter in their underground den. Their strategy is to gather and store a large food supply. Throughout autumn they work busily at this task, at times their cheek pouches so distended with beechnuts and other goodies that they appear to have a particularly dramatic case of mumps. The food is stored in the main chamber of the burrow, often in a pile with of grass and leaves on top. The chippie awakens through the winter when hungry and the mound of food gets progressively lower as it is eaten. A small tunnel leads off

to another room which serves as a lavatory; a dwelling that could be described in real estate parlance as "cozy efficiency apartment, combination living and dining area, separate bath."

THE SNOOZERS

Raccoon, skunk and opossum sleep through some of the coldest weather, but are easily awakened and will forage throughout the winter. Skunks will often utilize an abandoned woodchuck burrow. Though skunks are not the only animals to do so, they do claim specialized equipment that is guaranteed to strongly discourage any intruder who might be tempted to dispute ownership rights.

Through the years the opossum has steadily worked its way ever further north from its southern home. Though highly adaptable, winter still finds them at a distinct disadvantage. No instinct impels them to store food for the winter, and though they do put on an extra layer of fat they don't grow a winter coat and their relatively sparse fur offers little protection. When hunger drives them from whatever shelter they have found, their naked ears and tail are vulnerable to frostbit, a plight that seems especially pathetic to those of us whose fingers and toes ache painfully from the cold despite thick gloves and layers of socks.



UP AND ABOUT

Fox and rabbit, weasel and otter, deer, squirrel and porcupine are among those active throughout the winter. Moles have retreated to below the frostline where they continue to tunnel through the soil in pursuit of insect larvae and worms, thus playing an important role in helping to aerate the soil and control destructive insects.

For many, winter is a lean and hungry time. While deep snow offers protection for some, for others it is a serious hardship. Normal movement becomes difficult, expending precious calories just when they are most needed. For the beaver however, it is a time to relax and enjoy the rewards of many months of intense labor. The lodge is well secured, and a tasty pile of small tree trunks and branches lies nearby on the bottom of the pond. All that is needed is a quick dive to retrieve the day's meal.

Beaver are now thriving in Pennsylvania, but it wasn't always so. Hunted relentlessly for their luxurious fur, they were gone from much of the state by the middle of the 19th century. In 1917 a reintroduction program began which has proven so successful that beaver are once again flourishing. Hopefully, other returnees will do as well.

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Through The Eye Of The Dragonfly ...

Continued From Page 4

THE RETURN OF THE NATIVES

In recent years, the fisher and the river otter have been reintroduced into some of their former range. Both are members of the weasel family, which also includes badgers, mink, pine martens, ferrets and wolverines.

Sadly, by the early part of the 20th century unregulated trapping and timber cutting, along with stream pollution, caused the demise of both animals in Pennsylvania and many other states.

The fisher is an exceptional member of this family in that it is an expert tree climber and raises its young in the relative security of a high tree cavity. It is one of the few predators who consider porcupine to be an important and desirable menu item, and so help to control their population. Fishers need extensive forested areas for their survival. For this reason the Game Commission has targeted areas in northcentral Pennsylvania for their reintroduction program.

It would be hard to find a more appealing animal than the playful, intelligent otter. Most people have only seen them in captivity, enchanted by their antics as they tumble and play together, bellyflopping down slides, propelling themselves underwater across their pool like furred torpedoes, reversing direction with a quick somersault when reaching the far end. As delightful as they are to watch, it is far more gratifying to see animals living free in their natural habitat.

It is wonderful to know that after an absence of 100 years it will once again be possible in Pennsylvania to catch a glimpse of an otter making its way across a pond, or a fisher high in the branches of a tree. Welcome back- and to paraphrase Mr. Spock: May you live long, breed successfully and prosper!

Educators & Docents Needed

Lenape Village Educators

Part-time, seasonal educators are needed for our Lenape Village programs on weekdays from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Educators work with a range of children of pre-school and elementary ages and are paid by the program. All educators are thoroughly trained before doing programs and are required to submit background checks. For more information, contact Lenape Village Director, Marge Custer at (215) 357-4005 ext 5039, or at mlcuster@buckscounty.org

Butterfly House Volunteer Docents & Gardeners

Docents are needed during the summer in the Butterfly house to cover tours starting at 10:30am and the last tour usually by 2:30pm. There are some set up and closing duties every day. We are hoping to have enough docents this year to offer tours Tuesday through Sunday. Season start date is still pending, but should be after the area schools have let out for summer.

Gardening time is more flexible, and can even help water the plants in the evening.

Gardening groups, scout groups, gardening interns: We have several butterfly gardens that you might want to sponsor or work this year! We will give your group plenty of recognition for providing for, or maintaining any of the gardens in or surrounding the Butterfly House. Lots of opportunity to work with native plants and promoting gardening for wildlife.

If you have an hour every week, half day or full day, your help will always be appreciated! Any volunteers under the age of 15 must have an adult co-volunteer with them. If interested, please contact Joanne Robson at 215-357-4005 ext. 5035, at: jlrobson@buckscounty.org

Organizations At The Churchville Nature Center

Bucks County Aquarium Society

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. For more information, contact Carol Ross at (215) 822-5669, RedDragon@aol.com, or visit the web at www.bcasonline.com.

Bucks County Orchid Society

Meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. No July or August meeting. For more information, contact Dick Kaplanski at (215) 598-7311, Kaplrsr@comcast.net, or visit www.buckscountyorchidsociety.org.

BucksMont Organic Gardeners

Meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00-9:30 PM for meetings and field trips. For more information, contact Jean scherfcunningham (215) 672-5483, or davisville4210@gmail.com.

Bucks County Single Volunteers

Meets every Tuesday at 6:45 PM. For more information, contact svbc411@gmail.com, or visit the web at www.svbucks.org.

Photography Club

Meets the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. No July or August meeting. For more information, contact Janet Hickey (215) 269-9759, janet_hickey@verizon.net or on the web at www.churchvillephoto.net.

Delaware Valley Woodcarvers Association

Meets every Tuesday at noon for "Whittle-A-While" and the Fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM. No July meeting. For more information, call Joseph Dubosky (215) 378-1696, carverjoeD@aol.com

Thank You Volunteers

We would like to thank all of those people that gave their time as volunteers in 2016. We would also like to recognize those volunteers that put in a substantial number of hours at the nature center.

700 + hours

George Belfield 829
Mike Gordon 749

200 + hours

Mike Borovicka 395
Peg Thatcher 239
Jean McKenna 221
Ron Keefe 219
Vince DiAntonii 218

100 + hours

Sue Liwak 183
Nick Zahn 180
Sean Geary 159

Liam Geary 154
Greg Beatty 140
Mary Lloyd 134
Christina Pierce 114
Cole Campbell 105
Rich Kearns 103
Ron Warhula 102

50 + hours

Bob Duaine 96
Jeff Haberstroh 91
Ashish Cavale 90
Bobbi Bortz 89
Heather Majewski 86
Sharon Furlong 85

Robert Kwait 81
Kat Becker 80
Josh Teperov 76
Mickee Chai 74
Jenna Pintimalli 70
Tara Schmidt 70
Zack Austin 62
Andrew Tillery 59
Sarah Beyer 57
Malthri Nimmagadda 56
Chad Stein 54
Akash Eldo 53
Sarah Fetzer 51
Nicholas Macelko 51



Welcome New Members

We would like to spotlight folks who have joined us as new members of the Friends of Churchville Nature Center since the last issue of the "Dragonfly". Welcome to our family of *Friends*.

Douglas Bagwell
Joy Crosbie
Jeannette Daly
Ann Ferrara
Maureen Finley
Andrew Gannon
Jennifer Gaynor
Glenn Goldenberg
Tara Huber
Anna Keliher
Brian McGinley

Maria Meirzon
Thomas Miller
Ken Nem & Family
Megan Oczkowski
Charlotte Powell
Linda & Ronald
Schneider
Tom Toale
Dolores Vinson
Regina Waite
Suzanne Wisniowski

Welcome New Life Members!

Debbie Hoksema
Jean & Jay McKenna



Life Members

Bob & Lesley Bechtold
George Belfield
Mike Borovicka
Kate Boyer
Virginia Boyer
Jeanne Burford
Larice & James Burt
John & Ann Byron
Marlin & Joann Corn
Doug Crompton
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Marge Custer
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Laura Dittmeier-Schmidt
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Species Spotlight

Celebrating the diversity of species within the Churchville Greenway Watershed

White Pine

Pinus strobus

Once the most dominant tree of much of the northeastern US the white pine was the stately lumber tree used for all forms of building, especially for ship building in the colonial days. It is still prized today as a good lumber tree, very easy to work with. Although white pines are in sporadic pockets here and there in Pennsylvania's woods, the abundant expanses of pine forest are gone. There are some very small stands of white pine in Bucks County. The white pines at Churchville Nature Center and around the Churchville Reservoir were all planted.

White pines, sometimes called soft pines are easy to distinguish from other pines because they have very flexible thin needles that are soft to the touch. Other pine species needles are rougher textured, stiffer and more prickly. One of the most distinctive ways to tell white pines from the other pine species is that their needles are grouped in clusters of 5. The other pine species have needles that are usually grouped with 2 or 3 needles in a cluster depending on the species.

White pines can attain a height well over 100 – 150 ft. although they rarely do. Storms and high winds often snap and break the brittle branches of white pines.

White pines can be a good place for roosting owls to hide in daytime. The dark needles and lighting inside a pine tree are often good camouflage for the owl.

Pines trees also have a reputation for producing some very soothing sounds as light breezes blow through the closely arranged needles. It is a very calming sound. The term "whispering pines" often coined for different locations, woods, campgrounds, developments etc. with pine trees are called that for a reason. Once you learn how to listen to whispering pines you can often tell the various species apart just by the sound wind produces through their needles.

If you would like to become more familiar with the white pine then stop at the Churchville Nature Center's white pine picnic area adjacent to our parking lot. Perhaps it will be breezy and they just may whisper



Thank You

- Eagle Scout Fred Hannum , Troop 24 for completing a new split rail trail fence and rock paver border adjacent to our building
- Eagle Scout Anthony Leipziger, Troop 29 for construction of a wide paver trail connecting two existing trails
- Eagle Scout Brandon Cerami , Troop 99 for building and installation of 8 new trail placement and direction signs around the nature center building.
- Roger Bobst for donating some very nice deer skins to the village
- Nancy Lane for the donation of two large ferns in our entryway

THE DRAGONFLY NEWSLETTER

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Office Hours:
**Tuesday - Sunday
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Closed Monday
Trails open
sunup to sundown every day**

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The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin or disability in its programs, activities and facilities. The official registration information of the Friends of Churchville Nature Center, Inc. may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999.

Our mission ...

... is to instill an awareness and appreciation of the natural world in all people through education, and to promote responsible environmental stewardship with a commitment to the preservation of resources and wildlife habitat.



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