

FRIENDS OF RIDLEY
CREEK STATE PARK

SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:

Join us for trail work
the first Saturday of
each month. Contact
Gary Sawyer, Trails
Director, at

Muddy
boots@comcast.net

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<http://www.friendsofrcsp.org/>

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 11

SPRING / SUMMER 2008



Spring Is Here & Summer is Coming!

Well, here we are in the throes of spring, heading into summer, and the earth has awakened from its long winter's sleep. Overall, Delaware County has had a reasonable winter. Spring is one of the four temperate seasons. Spring marks the transition from winter into summer.

Spring begins in the northern hemisphere around the months of March, April, May, or as reckoned astronomically extending from the vernal equinox. As in summer, the axis of the Earth is tilted toward the Sun, and the length of daylight rapidly increases. The northern hemisphere begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to "spring forth", giving the season its name. Snow begins to melt, and streams swell with



winds, for which a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning is usually issued. Even more so than winter, the jet streams play an important role in severe weather in the springtime. The hurricane season officially begins in late spring, on May 15 in the northeastern Pacific and

runoff and spring rains. Most flowering plants bloom this time of year, in a long succession beginning even when snow is still on the ground, and continuing into early summer. In normally snow less areas, "spring" may



Flowers in bloom in the Hunting Hills Garden

begin as early as February during warmer years, with subtropical areas having very subtle differences, and tropical ones none at all. Sub arctic areas may not ex-

perience "spring" at all until May or even June, or December in the outer Antarctic. Severe weather most often occurs during the spring, when warm air begins to invade from lower latitudes while cold air is still pushing from the polar regions. Flooding is also most common in and near mountainous areas during this time of year because of snowmelt, many times accelerated by warm rains. In the United States, Tornado Alley is most active by far this time of year, especially since the Rocky Mountains prevent the surging hot and cold air masses from spreading eastward and instead force them directly at each other. Besides tornadoes, supercell thunderstorms can also produce dangerously large hail and very high

Dandelions are tap-rooted biennial or perennial herbaceous plants, native to temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere of the Old World. They are commonly known as weeds or ruderals

June 1 in the northern Atlantic. Before these dates, hurricanes are almost unheard of and even tropical storms are rare, one of the earliest ever being Tropical Storm Ana in mid-April 2003.

Spring is seen as a time of growth, renewal, of new life

(both plant and animal) being born. The term is also used more generally as a metaphor for the start of better times, as in Prague Spring.

Membership - A Call to Old Friends



Join the Friends - visit the park!

Hello old Friend, how have you been? The Friends have not seen many of you in a long time. We

always strive to maintain our old Friends and look forward to making new ones. We would have never gotten as far as we have without your continuous support. And we thank you for that help!

Did you know a paid membership provides the funding for most of the activities sponsored by the Friends? Maintaining the current membership and finding new ones is essential to the continued success of the Friends. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Tony Ieradi at Membership@friendsofrcsp.org.

Immediate tasks include brainstorming membership ideas, staffing tables at strategic places on the multi-use trail and representing the Friends at various park functions.

Contact Us At

Friends of Ridley Creek State Park
 Ridley Creek State Park
 1023 Sycamore Mills Rd.
 Media, PA 19063-4398

Or Visit us on the Web

<http://www.friendsofrcsp.org/>

Adopt-A-Trail - Sign up for the 2008 Season!

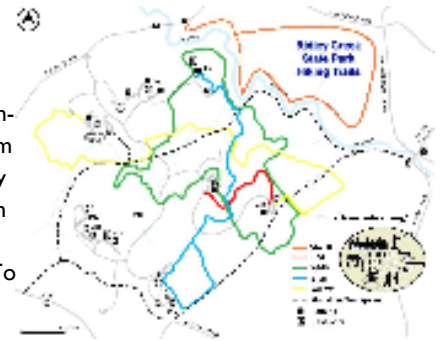
The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park, in conjunction with the Park, initiated a program to help maintain the Park's trail system. "Adopt-A-Trail" is an adjunct to the Friends' regular trail maintenance program, which is held the first Saturday of each month.

The Adopt-A-Trail program is open to individuals and groups. A section of one of the more than 10 miles of trails is to be "adopted" by an

individual or group. Adopters will take over responsibility for clearing the vegetative growth which continually grows over the trails - especially in open sunlit areas and will be free to work on the trails whenever the Park is open. This allows the volunteers to work whenever it best fits their schedule. Participants in the program can bring their own hand tools or borrow them from the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park.

The Adopt-A-Trail initiative is an important, vital supplement to the regular Friends trail maintenance program. This program allows the regular first Saturday of the month group to focus on larger issues like trail erosion, blow downs, bog bridges etc. To volunteer, or to find out more about Adopt-A-Trail, please visit our website or contact Tim Higgins at

president@friendsofrcsp.org



"The Adopt-A-Trail initiative is an important, vital supplement to the regular Friends trail maintenance program"

Remember us at Tax Time...or Any Time!



The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, which means that your con-

tributions are tax deductible! In addition, any money that you donate to the Friends will benefit Ridley Creek State Park directly. It is a little known fact that money dropped off in the office or checks made out to the Park itself goes directly into the "General Fund," which may or may not be redirected back to Ridley Creek State Park. Some people prefer to donate

stocks or similar commodities. PPF has a method established with a broker who will convert the stocks to cash and deposit the funds into the appropriate PPF account.

For more information on stock donations, contact John Kennedy from our website or Roger McChesney, Park Manager at 610-892-3900 for "how to" details.

Alyce's Corner

The grounds and gardens around the mansion have always been an integral part of this property and although they will never return to their former high-maintenance splendor, they are turning over a new leaf!

The most recent improvement is to the "Tennis Lawn" which is right above the formal gardens. **Girl Scout Troop #5506 from Newtown Square** put in a lot of concentrated effort over a series of weekends to reclaim this area from being overrun with invasives,

planted six trees, many flowering shrubs, numerous perennials and some annuals. This area can now be appreciated by wedding parties who use this spot pretty much every weekend throughout the summer, as well as the numerous park visitors strolling around the mansion grounds.

Another area that deserves some attention is the "Rose Garden" in the former barn foundation. This has been replanted with perennials and several down-and-out roses were replaced with Knockout

Roses. (black spot resistant and fuss free) This is just coming on its third year since being rejuvenated and should be filling out quite nicely.

The mansion and gardens are a continual work in progress and similarly like us, they are aging gracefully!



On Saturday, June 7th, in conjunction with National Trails Day, Ridley Creek State Park will be opening a new trail, assisted by the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park. The trail will be known as the "Orange Trail". This is the first new official trail to be opened within the park in several years. The Orange Trail will parallel the stream on the stream's east side, downstream of Gradyville Road.

This event will coincide with

Orange Trail Dedication ~ June 7, 2008

the Friends' monthly trail activity. Participants will meet at the Park office at 9 am Saturday, June 7th. There will be work activities for participants to include; measuring the length of this loop trail, blazing orange blazes on trees, and cutting back remaining brush. In addition, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony with Park Manager Roger McChesney and the Chief Ranger, Tony Mosloskie. Refreshments will be provided by

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and Eastern Mountain Sports of Haverford. Prizes provided by Friends and EMS will be awarded.

Everyone is welcome! Don't miss this special event and the opportunity to be part of a special milestone in the history of the Park.

New Park Pavilion Area 14

Watch for new picnic pavilion to be erected in **Area 14**. We'll have a special opening ceremony to coincide with the Annual Friends Membership meeting and Board elections – open to all members. Free food and beverages for members

Two New Friends Groups Join the Family

Two new friends groups joined the PPF family. The Friends of Kings Gap and the Friends of the State Line Barrrens. This second group is a hybrid group, focusing on an ecosystem as opposed to a location. Partners include the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, William Penn Forest District, The Nature Conservancy, and the Boy Scouts of America.

There are twenty groups now functioning under the PPF umbrella. Additionally, we support several special groups formed for the purpose of a specific project. In 2007, 14 reporting friends groups had more than 481 volunteers who provided more than 30,000 volunteer hours! This equates to more than half a million dollars of volunteer labor to state parks and state forests. In addition to trail maintenance, educational programming, sales, and other routine activities, these groups organized 60 programs, 42 service projects, and 32 special events!

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

Westtown School Students Volunteer

On October 20th, approximately 100 senior high school students from the **Westtown School** volunteered their time to complete several projects around the Park. A group cleared brush and tree limbs at Picnic Area #9; another group aided with raking leaves and spreading mulch throughout the formal gardens near Jefford's Mansion. And a third group constructed a leaf enclosure near the Greenhouse so that the Park's maintenance staff can deposit large quantities of leaves in the fall - to be recycled into rich, organic compost and mulch.

Dana & Howie at Hunting Hills Mansion

Friday, June 13th, the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park will host an Old fashion get-together! Our beautiful Hunting Hill Mansion (park office) will be the venue for Dana and Howie, two talented musicians who play guitars and sing music that we all will recognize from the 60's, 70's and more. They harmonize beautifully and encourage guests to sing along.

Families are invited to bring children (children under the age of 12 free) and delicious refreshments will be served. If the weather co-operates, the doors from the ballroom will be open to let the fresh spring air in and allow guests to sit on the patios while being entertained by these very talented singers.



In addition, tours of the newly updated mansion will be offered, showing off the new bridal dressing room as well as additional upgrades that have made Ridley Creek State Park a perfect venue for a perfect wedding. The fun begins at 7 p.m. in the majestic hunting hill mansion. The cost for this wonderful evening is \$10 for non-members; FREE for members of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park.

The Friends Gift of A Life Saving Medical Device

In late 2007, the Friends purchased a second Automated External Defibrillator unit (AED) to be permanently located in the Park Office (Jefford's Mansion). The Park has another AED unit which travels with the Ranger-On-Duty, however, the need for an AED unit in the Mansion was recognized, as large groups frequently gather in the formal gardens and in the Mansion throughout most of the year for weddings and other functions.

What is an AED? The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a computerized medical device. An AED can check a person's heart rhythm. It can recognize a rhythm that requires a shock and it can advise the rescuer when a shock is needed. The AED uses

voice prompts, lights and text messages to tell the rescuer the steps to take.

AED units are designed to be used by anyone in the event of an emergency, however, it is highly recommended that the rescuer should have had training and certification in the use of an AED. For further information and to learn about AED Certification Classes in your area, visit the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org to locate your local chapter.



Thanks for Your Support



Schedule of Events

- } June 7, 2008 - 9:00 Am
State Park Office Orange
Trail opening & dedication
at Noon.
- } June 13, 2008 - 7:00 Pm
Dana & Howie. Tours of
the mansion, refreshments.
- } TBD - Colonial Plantation
Candlelight Tour. Stay
tuned for more informa-
tion.
- } Nov 2, 2008 - Deadline for
Annual Photo Contest
- } Nov 9, 2008 - Annual Photo
Contest judging and show.
- } Dec TBD - Holiday Dance
at Hunting Hill Mansion

JUNE 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Other Happenings

Second Wednesday of each Month

Friends of RCSP Board of Directors' Meeting
7 PM in the headquar-
ters building

**Annual Friends Mem-
bership meeting and
Board elections**

Open to all members.
Free food and beverages
for members. Date TBD
to coincide with opening
of Area 14.

TRAILS

Monthly Trail Work –
First Saturday each
month 9:00 am at office.
Have fun, acquire new
skills, get dirty while
making the Park a better
place for all.



Support The Friends

Simply put, we love our Park! We are a small but growing number of dedicated volunteers who work to preserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty within the Park. We have been assisted by other volunteer groups, such as the Sierra Club (Southeast Pennsylvania Group), Appalachian Mountain Club (Delaware Valley Chapter), the Boy Scouts, Girl Scout Troop #5506 and Westtown School. We have also partnered with other groups within the park for special activities during Earth Day, Creek Week and National Trails Day. We are supported financially by member dues and on very grateful occasions, the large grant or contribution by concerned individuals or organizations. Because we are a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, the tax-deductible donations we receive directly benefit Ridley Creek State Park and are not part of the General Fund.

Join a Friend to the 'Friends'

All information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and true. Any errors, omissions, or inclusions are based on the information at hand at the time of printing. Please contact Tim Higgins at president@friendsofrcsp.org with any questions.