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The Friends

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Ridley Creek Celebrates 40th Anniversary as a State Park

Ridley Creek became a state park 40 years ago, in 1972. To celebrate this milestone, the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park are holding a gala event at the Mansion on the afternoon on Sunday, October 21st and it is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

The festivities begin at 1:00 pm in the ballroom. There will be information tables and displays from other

groups that are active in the park: Colonial Plantation, Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association, Craft Guild, and two fishing groups: Delco Anglers and Delco Manning Chapter #320 of Trout Unlimited. There will be fly tying and casting demonstrations.

One special event is the 40-mile hiking challenge. No, that doesn't mean 40 miles in one day! Hikers

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Architectural Sketches Now on Display at the Mansion

The Hunting Hill Mansion was originally a colonial farmhouse built by Abel Green in 1773. The property had several owners over the years and eventually was purchased by Samuel Riddle in 1913. Mr. Riddle presented the property to his niece Sarah Dobson Fiske and her husband Walter Jeffords as a wedding present. The Jeffords



electd to expand the original stone farmhouse and retained the services of local Philadelphia architect, Wilson Eyre, Jr. Mr. Eyre designed the home in the style of an English country house, incorporating the farmhouse in the Mansion. The 38-room Mansion, including a staircase hall, was completed in 1917 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania holds a collection of architectural drawings documenting buildings designed by Wilson Eyre. The collection includes five original drawings of the Mansion ("Jeffords House") of ink and water-

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40th Anniversary (Continued from page 1)

who have registered for this so far have pledged to do 40+ miles in the park over a period of 10 weeks – beginning August 12 and ending, of course, on October 21. The Challenge was posted on MeetUp’s Ridley Creek Hikers group and it was advertised on the Friends website and Facebook page, through flyers in the park, and other venues around town.

It’s not too late to register, as long as you can do the 40 miles between now and the 40th anniversary celebration. All you need to do is register in one of two places: on www.MeetUp.com by joining the group “Ridley Creek Hikers” OR on the Friends website www.FriendsofRCSP.org. Then print out the log form and go for it! Bring it to the Mansion for our award ceremony starting at 2 pm. There will be certificates and prizes given out for

the people who achieve the 40+ miles, and your name will be inscribed on a decorative poster and placed on the Friends bulletin board on the Multi-Use Trail.

There will also be tours of the Mansion and Hidden Valley horse stables, historical displays and some interesting facts about the history of the park and Mansion from our tour guide, Kay Ferrari, ranger talks, 40th anniversary mementos, birthday cake, and more! Check our website for the latest information on schedules and events.

If you can volunteer some time to help on October 21 or if you have questions, contact Joan Nikelsky (Vice-President, Friends of Ridley Creek State Park) by e-mail through the Friends website (Administration – Officials) or call the Friends voicemail phone 484-442-0223.



Architectural Sketches (Continued from page 1)

color on tracing paper or buff board. Known as “presentation drawings,” they are sketches used to illustrate the design concepts of the architect, a way to help the homeowners visualize the architect’s ideas.

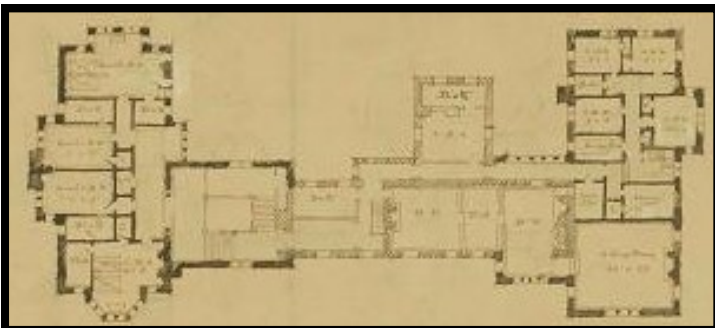
In 1917 Mr. Eyre was awarded a gold medal by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the design of the Mansion. In addition, the Hunting Hill Mansion was featured in a 1921 issue of an architectural magazine called *American Homes of To-day*.

When the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park became aware of these sketches, we began investigating the idea of having prints made of selected presentation drawings. Chris Michael, who in-

terned at Ridley Creek State Park as a historical researcher, supported this project. At a meeting of the Philadelphia Architectural Society held at the Mansion, Archivist Nancy Thorne provided high-resolution, full color scans of the presentation drawings to the Friends.

The project was brought to fruition by Friends Vice-President Joan Nikelsky, after the Board selected four presentation drawings for reproduction. They were professionally framed and hung in different locations at the Mansion. The project was finalized with a reproduction of a portrait of Wilson Eyre, provided by tour guide Kay Ferrari, which was also framed and hung.

The next time you visit the Mansion, take a few moments to enjoy these prints: the grounds and gardens drawing and the Wilson Eyre portrait in the entrance foyer, the second story plan and house exterior sketches located in the park office sitting room, the fireplace drawing in the bridal salon, and the stairway sketches located in the staircase hall.



This article was contributed by Friends member Sue Pellegrino.

New Bulletin Board for the Friends

Our new bulletin board is to be installed on the multi-use trail any day now! The board will be for the exclusive use of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park. We will be able to post all our flyers and announcements of upcoming events, such as the 40th anniversary event, the Holiday Dance, the Photo Contest, and more. You can also look for a

special poster listing the names of all the hikers who completed 40+ miles on Ridley's trails in honor of the 40th anniversary of Ridley as a state park -- after our October 21st celebration in the Mansion. You can find the bulletin board towards the bottom of the hill along Ridley Creek.

Paul Mickle Accepts Young Volunteer Award

Dedicated Friends of Ridley Creek State Park volunteer Paul Mickle was honored with the Young Volunteer Award for 2012 by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation (PPFF). It was a new award instituted this year to recognize a significant contribution to a park or forest by a person under the age of 25. The Board of the Friends nominated Paul and we were very pleased when he was chosen. The award was presented at PPFF's annual banquet on May 1, 2012.



Paul Mickle with Marci Mowery, President of PPFF.

Friends of RCSP VoiceMail

Please contact your Friends at any time with your comments and/or questions. Leave a message at 484-442-0223, and someone will get back to you ASAP!

2012 Friends Annual Picnic and Election Held

On June 2, 2011, the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park and the Trail Work Group had a joint event: a member and volunteer appreciation picnic, followed by the Friends' annual meeting and election of officers. Participants enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, and other picnic fare.

Jack Miller was re-elected to the position of President; Joan Nikelsky was re-elected to the post of Vice-President. A new Recording Secretary was chosen, Paul Mickle. A special cake was presented to honor outgoing Board members Alyce Zellers, Carol Rubin, and Gary Sawyer -- with their pictures on the cake. We deeply appreciate all their work for the Friends over the years and their contribution to our success. Congratulations to all!



Appreciations for Carol Rubin and Gary Sawyer

Gary Sawyer has been an active volunteer and member of the Friends of Ridley Creek State Park for over 8 years. He has served as Recording Secretary on the Board with great skill and efficiency. His most notable contribution to the park was regular involvement with the monthly trail workday, which he began leading in 2007. Gary's dedication and easy-going friendly manner will be greatly missed by the Friends, the volunteers, and the park users. While parting ways with Gary may be difficult, we all wish him the best for his move to Texas.

Carol Rubin has been among one of the longest running Friends Board members. She planned many different events, including the Photo Contest, and helped with a multitude of other projects, such as the Friends calendar. Perhaps her most notable contribution was creating and organizing the annual Holiday Dance that has become one of the most popular Friends events. Her outgoing personality and infectious enthusiasm attracted numerous volunteers to help at our events. Carol's contributions will be missed tremendously but remembered forever. We look forward to Carol's continued presence in the park and at Friends events.



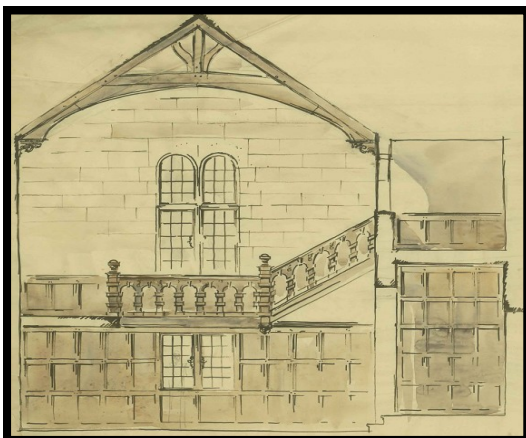
Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Friends

Mark your calendars:

The Holiday Dance lives on! We are planning to continue the tradition of holiday festivities with another Holiday Dance. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 8, in the Mansion ballroom, starting at 7 pm. Local disc jockey Steve Kurtz will play all your favorite tunes so you can dance the night away. Details will be posted on the Friends website www.FriendsofRCSP.org as they become available. You can also call the Friends voicemail

phone 484-442-0223.

And don't forget the **Photo Contest**, an annual event. Flyers are already posted in the park. Your favorite photos of the park, during all seasons, are welcome! Prizes will be given in the adult and youth categories on Sunday, January 27, 2013, at 1 pm in the Mansion ballroom. Look for the contest rules and entry form on the Friends website www.FriendsofRCSP.org.



Calendar of Events

- **First Saturday of each month, 9 am** – Monthly trail work. Meet at park office.
- **Sunday October 21, 1 pm** – 40th anniversary of Ridley Creek as a state park, Mansion ballroom.
- **Saturday December 8, 7 pm** – Holiday Dance, Mansion ballroom.
- **Sunday, January 27, 1 pm** – Photo Contest award ceremony, Mansion ballroom.