

Friends of Glen Providence Park 2014 - 2015 Biennial Report



Executive Summary

Friends of Glen Providence Park is an all-volunteer organization, and I first want to thank all of the volunteers. Your dedication makes a real impact on the park, and none of the accomplishments we highlight in this report would be possible without you!

Our plantings on National Public Lands Day the last two years were our largest yet. At the request of Delaware County Parks & Recreation, and with the help of dozens of wonderful volunteers, in 2014 we planted 55 native trees and shrubs to restore the work area from the County's emergency construction of a streambank wall in the summer. In 2015, we planted 55 native trees, shrubs, and perennials to restore habitat and beautify the Kirk Lane entrance.

The park has had its challenges in recent years. The concert stage was damaged when a large ash tree fell. The stream banks became severely eroded. We are grateful to Delaware County Parks & Recreation for their attention to these issues – and for resurfacing the historical concert stage in time for the park's 80th anniversary!

We were disappointed that the courts ruled that Broomall's Dam be rebuilt with a two-way road at 3rd Street. We will continue advocacy to minimize the resulting destruction of 1.1 acres of Glen Providence Park. Friends of Glen Providence Park continues to support dam removal, stream restoration and a local discussion of an environmentally-sensitive bridge between Media Borough and Upper Providence.

We broadened our educational events with the addition of Herpetology and Geology Walks, and new Nature Walks for Kids. In 2015, we expanded our free summer concert series to four concerts, including exciting performances by young musicians from a local rock school. Theatre came to the historical stage with a Halloween 80th Anniversary performance by Hedgerow!

Our 501(c)3 nonprofit status was granted by the IRS in 2014, marking an organizational milestone. We are grateful to Susan Garrison, Esq. for her generous legal expertise. We continue to plan projects and events for the community to enjoy this little gem of a park as it starts its next 80 years. We look forward to seeing you in Glen Providence Park!

Stephanie Gaboriault

President, Friends of Glen Providence Park

Board of Directors

Dylan Atkins, Shannon Davidson, Stephanie Gaboriault, Susan Harrington,
Holly Hoffmann, Lisa Johnson, Marcia Tate

Friends of Glen Providence Park Mission
To preserve and enhance the historic and natural resource of
Delaware County's oldest park, founded in 1935
as a bird sanctuary and arboretum.

Glen Providence Park's 80th Anniversary

In 1935, George T. and Eleanor Reed Butler generously donated the majority of land for Glen Providence Park to be a bird sanctuary and arboretum. In 2015, we celebrated and honored the first 80 years of Delaware County's first park. In addition to our regular monthly events:

- On Earth Day, we planted trees by the historical stage with Delaware County officials and Media Providence Friends School students.
- On the anniversary weekend of the park deed being signed, we held an 80th anniversary celebration at our July concert – with the Butler grandchildren Eleanor Reed Lewis and Clifford Butler Lewis as guests of honor.
- Work began on the park on October 31, 1935. On Halloween 2015, Hedgerow Theatre performed Edgar Allen Poe's The Raven, and enacted the park's 1700's Newlywed Ghost Story and 1800's Witch Story! A costumed audience of almost 200 enjoyed the performance (and birthday cupcakes!) before heading off for trick-or-treating.



Photos clockwise: 80th Anniversary cake; Jean Therapy with Butler grandchildren; Mayor Bob McMahon, Eleanor Reed Lewis, Clifford Butler Lewis, Stephanie Gaboriault; Halloween festivities; Earth Day plantings.

History

Rich in history, Glen Providence Park was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. We continued our historical research and in the process made present-day connections to the park founders' family. Historical photographs, maps and articles can be found on Facebook and our website.

Highlights:

- Uncovered microscope slides of organisms collected from Broomall's Run (then called Scroggie Run) in the early 1900's at the Academy of Natural Sciences and Delaware County Institute of Science
- Discovered that park founders George & Eleanor Reed Butler also founded Delaware County's first golf club; and connected their grandson with Springhaven Country Club
- Researched and wrote about the history of the Great Media Easter Egg Hunt, started by the Media Jaycees in 1954, and held annually since. The Egg Hunt celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2014!
- Researched 1800s shingle mill, historical maps and long involvement of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the park.



Photos clockwise: Slides of diatoms, George Butler and daughter Mary, Eleanor Reed Butler playing golf.

Nature

Our newest Citizen Science Project was to assist in the Pennsylvania Amphibian & Reptile Survey, launched to provide scientists with valuable data for study and conservation. Dedicated as a Bird Sanctuary and Arboretum in 1935, Glen Providence is rich in natural diversity, with varied habitats throughout its 33 acres. We regularly document the plants and wildlife in the park, with ongoing participation in Citizen Science through eBird, Philly Tree Map, and Christmas Bird Counts.

Highlights:

- 18 species documented through hundreds of entries on the PA Reptile & Amphibian Survey website – including 3 salamanders, 6 frogs & toads, 6 turtles, and 3 snakes.
- 118 bird species documented on eBird, with additions including warblers, vireos, Solitary Sandpiper and Wild Turkey!
- Participated in our 5th consecutive Christmas Bird Count
- 16 free nature walks for children and adults



Photos clockwise: Bald eagle + crows, American toad, black squirrel, Eastern bluebird, pond in spring.

Community + Outreach

The park is truly a gathering place for the greater Media community, and we are encouraged by the different organizations which continue to use and support the park. We support local schools, especially Media Providence Friends School and Penncrest High School, who use the park as an outdoor classroom. We help Girl and Boy Scouts and other community organizations to volunteer in the park. And of course we enjoy re-creating the summer concerts, which began in 1937.

Highlights:

- 7 free concerts at the historical stage with hundreds in attendance
- Monthly educational and service events in the park since 2011
- Regular education and updates about the park to our more than 600 Facebook fans and nearly 400 newsletter subscribers
- More than 200 articles on our website bring the park to people's homes



Photos clockwise: Herpetology walk, young guitarist in concert, geology walk, VIVaCe strings.

Service + Stewardship

In 2014 and 2015 our volunteers worked 620 hours in the park on cleanups, native plantings, and invasive plant removal. In addition, our directors and committee members volunteered a combined average of over 44 hours per week towards our mission to preserve and enhance the park. The park plantings make an immediate difference in controlling erosion and enhancing the park's habitat, and their benefits will grow every year, enhancing the beauty of the landscape.

Highlights:

- 110 native trees, shrubs and perennials planted on National Public Lands Day 2014 and 2015 to improve habitat, control erosion and beautify the park.
- 160 bags of invasive plants removed, benefitting hikers and wildlife.
- 4 large park cleanups conducted, with 42 bags of trash removed.



Clockwise: National Public Lands Day volunteers, Marcia Tate, Norm Bennett & Stephanie Gaboriault; invasive plant removal, 2015 National Public Lands Day volunteers.

Special Thanks to:

Delaware County Conservation District • Delaware County Council
Delaware County Parks and Recreation • Delaware County Planning
Susan K. Garrison, Esq.*

Performance Sponsors

Media Recreation Board • Media Rotary Foundation • Desert Rose • Diego's Cantina & Tequila Bar
Seven Stones Café • Shere-E-Punjab Indian Restaurant • Sterling Pig

Organizations + Individuals

Academy of Natural Sciences
Birding Club of Delaware County
CRC Watersheds Association
Clifford Butler Lewis
EllieReed Lewis
Dave Eberly
Delaware County Historical Society
Delaware County Institute of Science
Girl Scout Troop #5037
Mayor Bob McMahon
Media Arts Council
Media Business Authority
Media Lions Club
Media Fellowship House
Media Historic Archives
Media Providence Friends School
Minquas District Boy Scouts of America
PA Amphibian & Reptile Survey
Penncrest Interact
Taylor Memorial Arboretum
Transition Town Media
Untours Foundation
Upper Providence for Open Space
Walt Cressler

Businesses

Delaware County Press
Earthwise Landscapes
Garden Influence
Garrison Law
JMW Entertainment Group
Market Acumen
Media Copy
Media Town Talk
Pinocchio's Restaurant
Professional Duplicating
Redbud Native Plant Nursery
Springhaven Country Club
TPW Design Studio

Donors

Dylan + Patricia Atkins*
Faith Balsama*
Mary Ann + Chris Bursk
Adeline Cianella*
Katherine Crowner
Shannon + Kent Davidson*
Collette Decker
Robert Donegan
Richard + Cheryl Everill
Anne Fore
Stephanie + Randy Gaboriault*
Elaine Gallo
Janice Gilbert
Susan + Chip Harrington*
Eugenia, William + Constance
Harper
Walter + Silvana Hart
Linda + Joe Healy*
Tom + Wendy Hibberd*
Holly + Rich Hoffmann*
Nancy Hoffmann
Rena Hunstman
David + Sandy Irwin-Stoll
Lisa Johnson + Ted Laarkamp*
Kampmeyer Family
Geoffrey Kitson
Tina Koiva
Bob + Debbie Konar
Ross + Dierdre Konar
Jim Laurence
Joseph Leach
Lee Mayorga Family
Tracy McIntosh
Robert + Abigail Moore
Sandra Morales
Jaime Murray
Mark Piton
Sophie Quinn-Judge

Donors

Tom Reeves*
Lori Rines
Anselma Rodriguez
Tony + Barbara Rooklin
Terry Rumsey + Robin Lasersohn*
Paul + Cheryl Schlenker*
John + Karen Serwatka
Jane + Rick Sleutaris
Dale + Jo Snead
Maggie + Vegard Sorby
Joseph + Karen Speakman
George + Marcia Tate*
John Wenderoth
Karen + Ed Woomer
James Ziegelhoffer +
Jeanne Wordley
Friends of Lois Zinn
**2012 Founding Funders*

Performers

Blackbird Society Orchestra
Hedgerow Theatre
Jean Therapy
Let There Be Rock School
Perseverance Jazz
Philly Winds
Sonoma Sound
ViVaCe Strings

Friends of Glen Providence Park
is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3)
organization. We welcome new
volunteers and donations!
Donations may be made
through our website or by mail.
P.O.Box 1688, Media, PA
www.glenprovidencepark.org

**And thanks to our volunteers and all who participated in a Friends of Glen
Providence Park event, including the guides:**

Al Guarente, Ted Cavey, David Hewitt, Aura Lester, Kyle Loucks, Chris McNichol,
Charles Randall, Gary Stolz, Victoria Strange, John Wenderoth.

Photo credits: Stephanie Gaboriault, George Tate.