

Wissahickon Nature Club

www.wissahickonnatureclub.com

Announcements

OCTOBER 15, 2015

Treasurer's Report

According to Treasurer

Dianne Machesney:

Annual Dues are Due in September

Individual \$10.00 / Family \$15.00

Make checks payable to:

Wissahickon Nature Club

Mail to: Dianne Machesney, Treasurer
105 Lindley Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1805
412.366.7869

Previous balance:	\$1265.02
check to FHNC	(300.00)
deposits for dues	40.00
New Balance	\$1005.02

Our Next Speaker

October 29, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Don Weiss will present **Mammals of North America**. This program is Mammals of North America which, while it falls far short of being a complete inventory of the over 490 different species, will hopefully be an enjoyable journey. <http://www.donweissphotography.com>

Worth Repeating: May the Warm Winds of Heaven, Blow softly upon your house. May the Great Spirit, Bless all who enter there. May your Moccasins, Make happy tracks in many snows, and may the Rainbow Always touch your shoulder.
~ Cherokee Prayer Blessing



Lenape Photos by Pat Adams

Tonight's Guest Speaker

October 15, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Pat Adams will present **Native Americans of Pennsylvania: Culture and Lifestyles during the 1700's**. This program will focus primarily on the Lenape culture as they were pushed across the state and into Western Pennsylvania. Through pictures, artifacts and reproductions we'll try to get into daily lives, social and political structure of the Lenape during this time period.



Appreciate the Green (from the Nature Observer News archives)

by Chuck Tague

Last week I noticed the leaves on the Virginia Creeper had turned red. A common strategy of plants that produce small fruits that ripen in the late Summer, these fruits are to be eaten by migrating birds. In return, the thrushes, catbirds, waxwings and grosbeaks disperse the seeds far and wide. Because these fruits are small and difficult to see, leaves of these plants turn color, usually red, while most other plants remain green. These foliar fruit flags signal the presence of food to passing birds.

To me, the Virginia Creeper leaves signaled an event. The color of our world is about to change.

Green dominates Western Pennsylvania from the beginning of May to late Summer. It is not the dominance of this color, however, but its variation that fascinates me. The shades and intensities of green in one hillside alone staggers the imagination. Different plants have different shades and different intensities of green, and the composition of each hillside is unique. The angle of the sun always shifts and shadows shrink, disappear and grow again until night absorbs them. Clouds float by.

Celebrate Nature

Environmental Book Club

Kim Metheny

kmetheny@hotmail.com

Chriss O'Lare colare@outlook.com

Meet at the Panera on McKnight Road.

Upcoming Books

October 19, Monday, 7:15 p.m. This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate by Naomi Klein (second half)

November 16, Monday, 7:15 p.m. Mother Nature is Trying to Kill You by Dan Riskin



The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

wpamushroomclub.org

Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com

412.781.6581

October 17, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Mushroom Walk at North Park. Meet WPMC Identifier **John Stuart** at the North Park Swimming Pool Parking Lot to look for Hen-of-the-wood and other wild fall mushrooms.

Meeting

October 20, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Photo Contest Results and New Officers. Meet at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.



Virginia Creeper and Grape Vines by
Chuck Tague

Three Rivers Birding Club

Bob VanNewkirk, President

412.366.1694

www.3rbc.org

Outings

October 25, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Annual Moraine State Park Picnic and Bird Outing. Moraine State Park day use area (south shore) in the first parking lot on the right. After the morning outing, we will have the pot-luck picnic at one of the park pavilions near the McDaniel's boat launch. Please bring a dish that will serve 4-6 people to share. Directions: From I-79, take route 422 east toward Butler and exit at the Moraine State Park exit. At the end of the ramp, turn left and go straight into the park until you see the first major parking area on your right. One hour from Pittsburgh.

(Appreciate the Green Continued from page 1) The moisture in the atmosphere fluctuates and the wind with its ever changing direction and velocity, twists and turns each of the leaves, exposing its different colored underside. Each leaf grows and matures, and with all growth begins deterioration. Leaves must constantly fight predators and disease. Some win, others lose. Moisture reserves in the soil vary, nutrients sometimes run out and energy diverted for other needs of the plant.

The greens of a hillside reflect all these factors, and more, and our perspective, of course, is never the same. We move from one point to another and our focus changes from an up close examination to a vast scanning panorama. Occasionally, we will look up from the forest floor and catch a glimpse of an enchanted wonderland as sunlight filters through the highest leaves, dappling the trunks and floor. More often than not, we don't notice the green at all.

Color in the living world has many functions. It communicates and protects, signals and conceals. It also reflects or absorbs heat and light. Green, the color of chlorophyll, is the base line color of living plant communities, the product of photosynthesis.

The next few weeks will bring an end to the dominance of green. No longer will growth be the objective. All living things must prepare for Winter. As Autumn approaches, the subtle variations of greens will be replaced by large splashes of color from all parts of the spectrum. Soft lilac and vibrant purple flowers will accent the gleaming fields of goldenrod. Along the forest edge, reds, blues, whites and yellows will advertise fruit and nectar to the animals needed to disperse pollen and seeds. There will be daily changes in the colors of the trees. All of this is just a preview to one of the world's most spectacular displays of natural color, our Autumn leaves.

Appreciate the green, the color of life. Soon it will disappear, hidden away, waiting for next year's beginning.