

# Wissahickon Nature Club

## Guest Speaker



Photo by Jeffrey Hall

**October 27, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Jeffrey Hall** will present **Great Texas Birding Trail: the Rio Grande Valley.** The Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas teems with unique birds like green jays, chachalacas, Altamira orioles, and kiskadees. It is full of iconic birding spots like Santa Ana and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuges, South Padre Island, Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park...so many, in fact, that they have now been linked into the "World Birding Center." This program will introduce you to many of the natural wonders of a very special part of our country. <https://flowvella.com/s/aig/Nature--Wildlife-Presentations-by-Jeffrey-Hall/e>

### **Schedule Change for November 10, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.**

Our program will be a **Documentary about Grandma Gatewood**

When Emma Gatewood (Esther Allen's mom) set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, no woman — and only five men — had ever completed a thru-hike. In 1955, the 67-year-old grandmother of 23 finished the hike and earned herself the nickname "Grandma Gatewood." Upon completion of the epic trail, she told Sports Illustrated, "I would never have started this trip if I had known how tough it was, but I couldn't and wouldn't quit." Gatewood is also known as a pioneer of ultra-light hiking — she hiked the trail in Keds sneakers and often carried just an army blanket, a raincoat and a plastic shower curtain that she used as a bag. "Grandma Gatewood" hiked the AT two more times, in 1960 and in 1963, completing her final hike in sections. She was the first person to hike the trail three times, and she was the oldest woman to thru-hike the trail until Nancy Gowler did so at the age of 71 in 2007.

### Announcements

Annual Dues for club year  
September 2016 -  
August 2017  
are being accepted now.  
Individual \$10.00  
Family \$15.00

Make checks payable to:  
Wissahickon Nature Club  
Mail to: Dianne Machesney,  
Treasurer 412-366-7869  
105 Lindley Lane,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1805

---

New Balance	\$1068.01
-------------	-----------

### Worth Repeating

Spooky wild and gusty;  
swirling dervishes of rattling  
leaves race by, fleeing the  
windflung deadwood that  
cracks and thumps behind.  
- Dave Beard

CELEBRATE NATURE



Photo from Jennings Prairie by Dianne Machesney

**Fern Hollow Nature Center**

1901 Glen Mitchell Road  
Sewickley, PA 15143

412.741.6136 **April Claus, Naturalist**

For upcoming events visit:

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

**November 5, Saturday, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Hoedown and Chili Cook Off.** Snuggery Farm, 1551 Camp Meeting Road, Sewickley, PA. \$45 for members, \$50 non-members. Includes dinner, dessert, beer, music and dancing. Must be 21 years of age to attend. Proceeds benefit environmental education at Fern Hollow Nature Center.

**Nature Night Out**

**6:00 - 9:00 p.m. ages 5 - 10**

Enjoy a night out while the staff of FHNC entertain the kids. They'll take hikes, do crafts and have an evening of exploration.

**October 28, Friday,** Come dressed in your favorite costume for a fun campfire and s'mores. You may go into the meadow to look for spiders.

**November 12, Saturday,** Hike the night and do some star gazing weather permitting.

**December 16, Friday,** Work on some fun nature crafts to take home and give as gifts for the holiday season. Bring a peanut-free snack and enjoy some time with friends.

Members \$12/ child  
Non-members \$15/ child  
Registration required.

**Three Rivers Birding Club**

**Bob VanNewkirk, President**

412.366.1694 [www.3rbc.org](http://www.3rbc.org)

**Outings**

**Steve Thomas, Outings Director**

**October 30, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Moraine State Park Annual 3RBC Picnic and Bird Walk.** Meet in the 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 a park pavilion near McDanel's Boat Launch. Please bring a dish that will serve 4-6 people.

**November 5, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Yellow Creek State Park.** This outing will be a joint outing of the 3RBC and the Todd Bird Club. Meet **Margaret Higbee** at the park office located on Route 259 just off Route 422 east of Indiana. Allow an hour and 30 minutes to drive from Pittsburgh.

**November 20, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Moraine State Park.** Meet at the Moraine State Park day use area (south shore) in the first parking lot on the right. Allow one hour driving from Pittsburgh.

**Western Pennsylvania**

**Mushroom Club**

[wpamushroomclub.org](http://wpamushroomclub.org).

**Cecily Franklin**

<[cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com)>

**Meeting**

**November 15, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos.**

Members may show their mushroom "talent" or photos. You may perform a mushroom song, read a mushroom poem, or tell a few mushrooms jokes. Just let us know in advance if you will need any special equipment. Email [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com).

**Cool Internet Stuff**

Dianne Machesney's Interview

<http://learnyourland.com/exploring-the-jennings-prairie-with-the-wissahickon-nature-club/>

Steve Gosser <http://home.comcast.net/~sgosser/>

Bobby Greene [bobbygreene.com](http://bobbygreene.com)

Amanda Haney <https://www.flickr.com/photos/61181150@Noo/sets/>

Kate St. John <http://www.wqed.org/birdblog/>

Chuck Tague, Nature Observer  
<http://ctague.pairserver.com/Natureobserver/Welcome.html>

Groundbreaking <http://www.ormondbeachobserver.com/2015/08/a-gift-for-our-children/>

Don Weiss  
[www.donweissphotography.com](http://www.donweissphotography.com)



Osprey, "Pandion haliaetus" by Chuck Tague  
A photo from Pawley's Island, SC 2004.