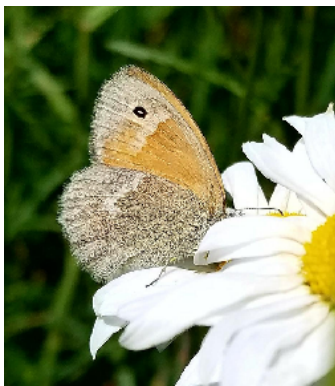


Wissahickon Nature Club

Speaker

On September 13 Thursday, 7:30 p.m. **Bob and Dianne Machesney** will present **Panama December 2017**. Take in the highlights from their butterfly tour at the Canopy Tower and Lodge. This will be our annual Wine and Cheese Reception. Wissahickon will bring the wine; members please bring hor d'oeuvres or desserts.



Photos by Dianne Machesney

Don't miss our next meeting. **Thursday**, October 11, **Sarada Sangameswaran** will present **From Black to Green: The Story of Pittsburgh Botanic Garden**. Join staff from Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to learn how they are transforming an old coal-mining site into a beautiful botanic garden. Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is at the forefront of land reclamation in Western Pennsylvania. This presentation provides a brief history of the Garden and details the land reclamation projects that continue to restore our natural habitats. They will show pictures of the established areas of the Garden and their future plans for creating a vibrant place for visitors to enjoy.

For information regarding Pennsylvania's local nature clubs, please visit their websites, or you can opt to join the clubs and receive their newsletters by snail-mail.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania
Loree Speedy 724.518.6022 loreespeedy@gmail.com
<http://www.botsocwpa.org/>

Fern Hollow Nature Center
Sam McClain-Capezzuto, Director
412.741.6136
<http://www.fhnc.org/>

Outside My Window Outings Kate St. John 412.421.1566
www.birdsoutsidemymwindow.org/events/

Three Rivers Birding Club
Bob VanNewkirk, President
412.366.1694
www.3rbc.org

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
wpamushroomclub.org
Cecily Franklin 412.781.6581 <cs4wpmc@gmail.com>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TREASURER'S REPORT ACCORDING TO TREASURER, DIANNE MACHESNEY

Ending balance May 30,2017	1237.01
Donation from Sattler	100.00
Print Booklet	(157.00)
Postage for booklet	(37.63)
Renew website	(59.97)
Deposits dues for 2018/2019	295.00
New bulb for projector	____(58.98)

New Balance as of Sept 1, 2018 1,318.43

Will need to send a check to FHNC. Last year we gave \$300.

Dianne has received dues from 49% of the membership.

Dues are due.
\$10 individual
\$15 family

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Margaret (King) Sterrett, (Sue Solomon's mother) MAY 2, 1920 ~ JULY 2, 2018

THANK YOU

DR. GARY SATTLER AD TO THE LYNCHES FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS.



Northern Cardinal by Chuck Tague

from the Nature Observer News archives

A Bird in the Hand is worth . . .

By Chuck Tague

Boyce Mayview Regional Park, October 20, 2001 I am very blessed. I have the great privilege of regularly holding birds in my hand. The United States Fish & Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Game Commission permit me to keep unreleasable birds of prey for "educational purposes." An Eastern Screech Owl with a damaged wing lives in my basement. He is very comfortable sitting on my finger. Together we visit schools, nature centers, assisted living facilities or anywhere else where we can find people who want to learn about birds.

Occasionally I assist the dedicated rehabilitators at the Pennsylvania Wildlife Center. Their responsibility is to treat

injured and orphaned animals and return them to the wild. In spring they are overwhelmed with songbirds, mostly recently hatched or fledged birds that need a great deal of care. The staff and volunteers work from sunrise to sundown hand feeding the hungry nestlings and refilling feed trays for the youngsters in the flight cages. Many of the birds don't survive. The reward for all this hard work and heartache is returning a few healthy young songbirds to the wild.

The number of songbirds at the Wildlife Center decreases as summer progresses. This year, by the end of October only a Cedar Waxing and a cardinal remained.

Betty Miranda, the center's director, asked if I would release the two birds in a suitable place. I was scheduled to lead a nature walk at the Boyce-Mayview Regional Park that weekend. Children always come on these walks so I suggested the kids help me with the release. Betty agreed. The most important lesson in wildlife education is that animals should never be disturbed. However, under the right circumstances a bird in the hand is worth two Bush campaign funds.

We walked along the trail until we came to a thicket far from the road. I gently took the waxwing out of the carrying case and gave it to Paul. The bird didn't look afraid, just puzzled. Paul swung the waxwing up and it flew off. The bird's flight was wobbly at first but soon it got control, circled up and landed on the spire of a sumac fruit head. It looked around then called out to other waxwings that might be in the area.

Next I handed Jenica the cardinal. He was a ragged young male. She held the bird firmly. I could imagine how she felt. The bird's heart must have been beating rapidly enough for her to feel. The bird's eyes were bright and curious. So were the girl's. There was an obvious bond between the two.

She didn't push the cardinal. She simply opened her hand. The cardinal flew downward and landed on the trail. He stood looking back at us. We watched for several minutes. He didn't move so I approached him. He flew up to a branch just out of reach. I turned and we walked away.

Two hours later the group passed by the thicket. The Cedar Waxwing was gone. The cardinal scolded us from the brush. His future was now out of our hands. However, he and his waxwing companion had touched the lives of the two children who touched them.