



Volunteer Newsletter

July 2014

Summertime Simmerings

By Akire Bubar, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Hello, and welcome to the 3rd issue of the Heritage Conservancy Volunteer Newsletter! We've really appreciated all of your feedback. This month we're trying out a new layout in order to improve readability – please let us know what you think. We'd

also love to hear about your experiences volunteering for Heritage Conservancy - if there's a volunteer event that you'd like to write about, or photos you'd like to share, please let us know! Feel free to contact Shannon Fredebaugh at emailaddress@heritageconservancy.org or 123-456-7890 x987 if you want to contribute.

Stewardship of Heritage Conservancy Properties

By Kevin Kester, Stewardship Volunteer, and Business and Individual Membership Committee Volunteer

What does Land Stewardship mean? It's all about adopting a property as one's own to monitor at various times during the year. I have been volunteering as a Land Steward with Heritage Conservancy for over a year now.

Located in Buckingham Township, Jackson Pond is beautiful with trails that surround it and plentiful, lush vegetation. The property is also an excellent location for nature walks. The plant material, the wildlife, and birds that are abundant at the site offer great potential for nature study. The Conservancy has access to many



nature educators and bird watchers to provide educational programs, and one upcoming event at the pond, "Tracks and Tales", will be led by Heritage Conservancy Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Fredebaugh on Saturday July 19th starting at 10 am. Shannon will be helping participants to identify animal tracks found in the area. If you are interested in this event, you can find more information on the Heritage Conservancy's website at <https://www.heritageconservancy.org/event/tracks-and-tales/>.

Heritage Conservancy needs volunteers to help watch over Conservancy properties, and to lend a hand on cleanup days. If you'd like to help out, keep an eye on the Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Efforts So Far

Projects:

Jere Knight Trail Clean-up at Fuller Preserve, Front Desk, Bristol Marsh Teachers' Manual, Quakertown Nesting Bird Survey, Concerts in the Garden, Barn Tour Road Rally, Gardening at Aldie, Members Garden Party, multiple committees, mailings, and more!

Total Volunteers so far: 220

Volunteer Hours:

May = 252, June = 448, July so far = 10.5

TOTAL Volunteer Hours this year = 1,741!

section of this newsletter where events will be announced.

My time at Jackson Pond is both relaxing and educational, and fulfills the need to monitor the property on an on-going basis to keep it clean, safe and healthy for the present and future use of area residents. Becoming a Land Steward for Heritage Conservancy has proven very rewarding and is a program I am very proud to be a part of.
— *Photos of Jackson Pond provided by Kevin Kester*



Many Faces, One Voice: Edward Hawkey – Gardening, Mulch Madness, and Property Cleanup Volunteer

By Akire Bubar, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

This month's featured volunteer is Edward Hawkey. He first volunteered for Heritage Conservancy about five years ago at the Bristol Marsh Cleanup. Since then he has been a frequent volunteer for the Conservancy, helping out with gardening & cleanup efforts. When asked about what projects he likes best, he writes, "Mulch Madness is my favorite activity at the Conservancy because you can see the transformation that takes place in one day and everyone is having so much fun mulching. I never have fun mulching at home! Then I get to hear what the staff has been doing or planning to do this year at the lunch. I also catch up with the other volunteers as we are working and at lunch." He enjoys working with Heritage Conservancy because it is "a conservation organization that works to preserve open space, helps land owners with preservation ideas, works to restore habitats and works to build our communities to be more sustainable."



Ed and his wife are involved in volunteer work with a number of other organizations as well. They both volunteer at the Pearl S. Buck House cataloguing books. Together they have three therapy dogs that they take to reading programs for children and to Grandview Hospital to visit the patients and staff. Ed also helps harvest vegetables at Delaware Valley College for the Bucks County Opportunity Council's *Hope of the Harvest* project, which distributes the vegetables to local food banks. He is on the Alumni Board of his college and helps out with annual gardening, cleanup, and maintenance projects there – most recently he was put in charge of installing 540 feet of split rail fence! In addition, he has volunteered catching and removing rusty crayfish, an invasive species, from the creek in Valley Forge National Park. He writes, "Wading in a stream in the summer with school kids is a great way to spend a morning."



In addition to all this, Ed is an athlete. He is Vice President of the High Roads Multisport Club. As a runner he qualified for and ran in the Boston Marathon in 2011. And to celebrate his 60th birthday in 2009 he rode his bicycle across the country. The first half of that adventure followed the return trip of Lewis and Clark from the coast of Oregon to St. Louis. All in all, the trip took 63 days and covered almost 4,000 miles.

Ed's work for Heritage Conservancy and other local organizations truly embodies the spirit of volunteerism, and we are lucky to have Ed as part of our community! — *Photos of Ed provided by Ed Hawkey*



The Gardens at Aldie Mansion

By Akire Bubar, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Part of what makes Aldie Mansion such a magnificent place are the many gardens scattered about the property. These gardens are planted and maintained by Heritage Conservancy volunteers.

In 1927 when Aldie Mansion was built, the property was over 26 acres, much of it gardens. The Mercers frequently held garden parties, hosting such notable guests as Isadora Duncan and Groucho Marx. Among the many Mercer pets were several peacocks who wandered the estate freely, including a pure white one named Solomon. The Aldie Gardens were frequently a highlight of the Philadelphia Garden Tours of the 1930's.

Today, the gardens are a source of enjoyment to the local community. They are also a significant part of Aldie Mansion's appeal to couples looking for wedding site. Special event rentals are an important source of income for Heritage Conservancy. The volunteer gardeners who make sure the gardens are an elegant and enticing part of the property are directly helping to secure the funds that allow the Conservancy to do the work we all hold dear. If you are interested in helping out with gardening at Aldie, please see the "Volunteer Opportunities" box right on this page!

— *Photos of Aldie Mansion gardens by Akire Bubar*



Volunteer Opportunities:

—Please contact Shannon Fredebaugh at emailaddress@heritageconservancy.org or 123-456-7890 x987 if you want to help or have more questions.

Gardening at Aldie Mansion

Summer is in full blast and the grounds are looking lovely at Aldie Mansion! Come and enjoy the historic beauty that Aldie Mansion has to offer while helping to weed, water and plant in the gardens. This will help to ensure the grounds are in top shape for the community to enjoy throughout the year!

Days/Times available: Flexible during business hours — Monday through Thursday 9am to 5pm, or Fridays 9am to 1pm.

Where: 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA